

THE
SEVEN WEEKS' WAR.



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ITS ANTECEDENTS AND ITS INCIDENTS.

BY

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"Unaque hora, quadringentorum annorum opus quibus
Alba steterat excidio ac ruinis dedit."—LIVY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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SEVEN WEEKS' WAR.

BOOK VIII.

CHAPTER I.

OPERATIONS IN THE WESTERN THEATRE OF THE GERMAN WAR.

As has been already shown in a preceding chapter,¹ the Prussian troops which had invaded Hanover and Hesse-Cassel occupied on the 19th June the following positions : —The divisions of General Goeben and General Mantuffel were in the town of Hanover, and that of General Beyer in Cassel. Of the allies of Austria the Hanoverian army was at Göttingen, the Bavarian in the neighbourhood of Würzburg and Bamberg, the eighth Federal corps in the vicinity of Frankfort. The latter consisted of the troops of Würtemberg, Baden, Hesse-Darmstadt, Nassau, and Hesse-Cassel, to which an Austrian division was added. We have seen under what disadvantages the Hanoverian army left Hanover, and commenced its southward march. Its formation and preparations began only at Göttingen, and they were necessarily conducted under

¹ See page 157, Vol. I.

every untoward circumstance. The soldiers of the reserve, and those who had been absent on furlough, nobly responded to the call of their King, and made their way through the country which was in Prussian possession, and sometimes even through the lines of the enemy, to join the ranks at Göttingen. By their firm determination to reach their regiments they afforded an earnest of the gallantry and courage which they afterwards displayed upon the field of battle. By the arrival of these men, the army at Göttingen mustered about twenty thousand combatants, with fifty guns.

Southern Germany expected great deeds of the Bavarian army. It might have thrown serious difficulties in the way of the Prussian successes, had not an uncertainty and vacillation pervaded all its operations. Prince Charles of Bavaria, the Commander-in-chief, under whose orders the eighth Federal Corps was also afterwards placed, seems to have conducted his campaign without a definite strategical object, and without energy in its prosecution. Against him in command of the Prussian Army of the Maine¹ was a general gifted with prudence and clear foresight, who pursued his aim with an iron vigour. The Bavarian is a smart soldier in time of peace, and conducts himself well in battle: but he is too much dependent upon good diet, the want of which grievously maims his capacity for undergoing the fatigues of war. Nor do the ranks of Bavaria contain such intelligence as do those of Prussia, for men drawn for military science are allowed to provide substitutes, so that only the poorer

¹ This name was only given on the 1st of July to the Prussian divisions amalgamated together under the command of General Vogel von Falckenstein.

and less educated classes of society furnish recruits for the army.

The eighth Federal corps did not assemble either with zeal or rapidity. The troops of the Grand Duke of Baden not only came very late to the place of concentration, but when actually in the field were handled in a manner which gave rise to grave suspicions of the affection of their government for the South-German cause. The kernel of this miscellaneous corps was formed by an Austrian division composed of the troops which had been withdrawn from the fortresses of Rastadt, Mayence, and Frankfort. Even if the princes of the small states which furnished their contingents to the eighth corps had made clear to themselves the end or object of the war which they had undertaken, their reasons for the quarrel had not penetrated the lower ranks of their armies. The troops had no idea, no knowledge, of the causes for which they were to shed their blood, and markedly in this respect contrasted with the Prussian soldiery, which held that the honour, integrity, and even existence of its fatherland was in jeopardy.

The Federal troops did not fail in bravery, but no enthusiasm thrilled through their ranks. Individual bodies were doubtless animated by a high courage, and in many cases displayed a heroic devotion to their leaders and their princes. But the mass did not work evenly; a want of harmony existed among its heterogeneous units, which, in combination with the clouded plans of its chiefs, facilitated the task of General Von Falckenstein. There was also dissension in the councils of the leaders. Prince Alexander not only habitually disagreed with

his superior, Prince Charles, and so originated causes of disaster ; but himself was often engaged in paltry squabbles with the lieutenants who commanded the different contingents.

CATASTROPHE OF THE HANOVERIAN ARMY.

The Hanoverian army had marched from its capital almost totally unprepared to undertake a campaign. It stood in dire need of several days' rest in order to be organized, and to allow time for the formation of a transport train, as well as for the clothing and armament of the soldiers of reserve who had been recalled to the ranks, and for the horsing of part of the artillery. On this account it was forced to halt until the 20th June at Göttingen, and the favourable moment for its unmolested march to unite with the troops of Bavaria was allowed to slip away.

On the 19th June, by the successful occupation of Cassel by Prussian troops, the ultimate retreat of the Hanoverians was first endangered. On the same day the Prussian General Von Falckenstein set out from Hanover with Goeben's division in pursuit of them. The Hanoverian army had gained a start of almost seventy miles on General Von Falckenstein, which was of the more importance, inasmuch as the latter could not make use of the railroads, which had been torn up and broken.

The King of Hanover determined to move in a southeasterly direction, and to attempt to reach Bavaria by passing through Prussian territory on the road which

leads by Heiligenstadt and Langensalza, and then by Gotha or Eisenach, or to unite with the Bavarians in the neighbourhood of Fulda. The roads in this direction through the mountains of the Thuringian Forest are very convenient, and by no means difficult. Had the march been pushed on with certainty and rapidity, there seems to have been no reason why it should not have been successful in its issue. The portion of the Prussian province of Saxony through which the line of march lay from Heiligenstadt to Langensalza was entirely denuded of Prussian troops. The only force to oppose the progress of the retreating army on this road was the contingent of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, at Gotha. This consisted, however, of only two battalions. It seems, therefore, that the direction proposed for their route offered considerable chances of success, if on the one side the Hanoverians had forced their marches, and on the other the Bavarians had pushed forward by Coburg in strength, in order to effect a junction with their threatened allies. But neither the Hanoverian nor Bavarian leaders acted energetically.

The Prussian staff, on the contrary, took most prompt measures to cut off the Hanoverian retreat, and to occupy the principal points on their line of march with troops. The Duke of Coburg had declared openly and decidedly on the side of Prussia, and his troops were in consequence at the service of the Prussian Government. On the 20th June, Colonel Von Fabeck, the commandant of the Coburg contingent, received a telegraphic order from Berlin to post himself with his two battalions at Eisenach, because it was expected that the Hanoverians would there first attempt to break through. Three battalions of

Landwehr, one squadron of Landwehr cavalry, and a battery of four guns, were sent from the garrison of Erfurt to reinforce him. A battalion of the fourth regiment of the Prussian Guard, which had reached Leipzig on the 19th, was also despatched to his aid, a detachment of which, on the 20th, rendered the railway tunnel near Eisenach impassable.

At the same time General Beyer, pushing forwards from Cassel towards Eisenach, occupied the passages of the river Werra, between Allendorf and that place.

The idea of uniting with the Bavarians, by moving from Heiligenstadt by Eschewege and Fulda, was under these circumstances given up by the King of Hanover. On the 20th of June such is said to have been his intention, and on that day he moved his advanced guard from Göttingen to Heiligenstadt. On the 21st he ordered his whole army to move upon Gotha, and crossed the Prussian frontier with his troops, after taking leave of his people by means of a proclamation, in which he mournfully expressed his hope soon to return victorious at the head of his army to the land which he was then temporarily forced to quit.

General Arentschild, on entering Prussian territory near Heiligenstadt, issued a proclamation in which he disavowed any intention of treating the country in a hostile manner, and declared that he only desired to be allowed to march through without interruption. The Hanoverian army, dependent for its subsistence upon requisitions, moved but slowly. On the 22d it occupied Mühlhausen, and on the 23d Grosz-Gottern. From this place advanced guards were pushed forward on the one

side towards Erfurt, on the other to the railway between Eisenach and Gotha. The latter found that this line was already occupied by the Prussians. On the 24th the Hanoverian army reached Langensalza.

In the meantime Colonel Fabeck, the commander of the Coburg contingent, quitting his position at Eisenach, approached Gotha, and occupied the road by which the Hanoverians might have broken through in this direction. A second squadron of Landwehr cavalry and a *dépôt* battalion were sent from Erfurt to reinforce him; and a second battalion of the fourth regiment of the infantry of the Prussian Guard was hurried up from Berlin. One battalion of this regiment occupied Weimar, and the other Eisenach.

On the 24th June, the force opposed to the Hanoverians at Gotha consisted only of six weak battalions, two squadrons, and four guns. There can hardly be any question but that, if the King of Hanover had marched rapidly on Gotha that day, Colonel Von Fabeck would have been quite unable to hold his position. But the Hanoverian leaders failed to take advantage of this last opportunity. The King rejected a proposal made by Colonel Von Fabeck, that his army should capitulate; but applied to the Duke of Coburg, and asked him to act as a mediator with the Prussian Government. The Hanoverians desired a free passage to Bavaria, and were in return willing to pledge themselves to take no share in the war in Germany during six months. The Duke of Coburg insisted that this time should be extended to a year, to which the Hanoverians assented, and the Duke telegraphed a report of the negotiations to Berlin.

Had the Hanoverians obtained these terms, their intention was to move into Italy, and there to act on the Austrian side against the Italians,—a course of action which would have recalled to memory the past times in which the Electors of Hanover sent so many of their subjects to combat in the cause of the republic of Venice.

The King of Prussia, immediately on the receipt of the telegram of the Duke of Coburg, despatched his Adjutant-General, General Von Alvensleben, to Gotha, to treat with the King of Hanover. In the meantime an armistice was agreed upon, which was to expire on the morning of the 25th. This armistice was violated, doubtlessly by some misunderstanding, on the night of the 24th, by the Hanoverians, who advanced to the Gotha and Eisenach railway, and broke up the line near Frötestadt. General Von Alvensleben sent a proposal from Gotha to the King of Hanover that he should capitulate. To this no answer was returned; but the King expressed a wish that General Von Alvensleben should repair to his camp, in order to treat with him. This wish was complied with early on the 25th, when an extension of the armistice was agreed upon, and General Von Alvensleben hurried back to Berlin for further instructions. It was ~~not~~ at this time the interest of the Prussians to push matters to extremities. Their troops were widely scattered, and the small force at Gotha was unequal to engage the Hanoverian army with any chance of success. The Hanoverians seem to have been ignorant of how small a body alone barred the way to Bavaria, and to have hoped that time might be afforded to reach them. On the night of

sent to the Bavarian head-quarters at Bamberg to report the situation of the Hanoverian army, and to solicit speedy assistance. To this request Prince Charles only replied that an army of nineteen thousand men ought to be able to cut its way through. In consequence of this opinion only one Bavarian brigade of light cavalry was advanced on the 25th of June to Meiningen, in the valley of the Werra, while a few Bavarian detachments were pushed forward along the high road as far as Vacha.

This procedure of Prince Charles of Bavaria was alone sufficient to condemn him as a general. He held his army inactive, when, by a bold advance, not only could he have insured the safety of the Hanoverians, but could in all probability have captured the whole of his enemy's troops at Gotha. Thus he would have saved nineteen thousand allies, have captured six thousand of his adversary's men, have turned the scale of war by twenty-five thousand combatants, have preserved to his own cause a skilled and highly trained army, proud of high and ancient military reputation, which the faults of politicians had placed in a most precarious and unfortunate position.

On the 25th Prussian troops were closing in upon the devoted Hanoverians; but telegraphic orders were forwarded from Berlin to all their commanders not to engage in hostilities until ten o'clock on the morning of the 26th. Colonel Von Döring was despatched to Langensalza by the Prussian Government, with full powers to treat with the King of Hanover; he pro-

~~posed an alliance with Prussia on the basis of the~~

recognition of the Prussian project for reform of the Germanic Confederation, and of the disbandment by Hanover of its army. To these terms King George would not agree; deserted by his allies, to them he was still faithful, and still expected that the Bavarians must come to his aid. He refused to entertain any proposition for the capitulation of his army, and demanded a free and unimpeded passage into Bavaria. In the meantime, while the King treated, the Bavarians remained inactive, and while the Hanoverian army was fatigued by marching and countermarching within its lines, the troops of Prussia closed round it. On the 25th June the Prussian divisions of Goeben and Beyer reached Eischach. The same day General Flies, who had been despatched by General Manteuffel with five battalions and two batteries, reached Gotha by means of the railway which runs through Magdeburg and Halle. On the same evening the Prussian troops at Gotha were reinforced by two battalions of the 20th regiment of Landwehr, and a dépôt battalion from the garrison of Magdeburg. General Flies immediately assumed the command of the Prussian and Coburg troops at Gotha, and pushed his advanced guard that evening to Warza, half-way between Gotha and Langensalza.

Round this place the Hanoverian army lay. The opportunity of forcing its way into Bavaria, while the two battalions of Coburg were alone at Gotha, had been lost. By the morning of the 26th, forty-two thousand Prussians were placed on the south, west, and north, within a day's march of its position, and all hopes of

escape into Bavaria, or of aid from its southern allies, appeared to be vain.

On the 26th the armistice expired at ten o'clock in the morning, but the Prussian Commander-in-chief did not immediately commence hostilities. His dispositions were not yet perfected. That day the Hanoverian army drew more closely together, either with the object of accepting battle, or, as some say, with the intention of moving by Tennstedt, and endeavouring to join the Bavarians by a circuitous route.

That evening the Hanoverians took up a position between the villages of Thamsbrück, Merxleben, and the town of Langensalza. None of these places were well suited for defence, and no artificial fortifications were thrown up on the southern side of the position, where General Flies lay. On the northern side a few insignificant earthworks and one battery were erected, to guard the rear and right flank of the army against the Prussian corps under General Manteuffel, which lay in the direction of Mühlhausen. The soldiers were weary with marching and privations, but eager to join battle with the Prussians, who of late years had spoken in a disparaging and patronising tone of the Hanoverian army, which, since the battle of Langensalza, has been exchanged for one of high respect and admiration. There had been a false alarm in the Hanoverian lines of an advance by the enemy in the night between the 26th and 27th June; but an attack was not expected on the 27th. This day had been appointed by Royal command to be observed as a solemn day of fast and humiliation throughout Prussia, and the Hanoverian leaders appear to have

imagined that on this account the Prussian generals would not attack. In this they were deceived, for before evening there had been fought the bloody

BATTLE OF LANGENSALZA.

The Prussian troops on the morning of the 27th occupied the following positions:—The division of General Manteuffel was at Mühlhausen; that of General Beyer at Eisenach; that of General Goeben had one of its brigades, that of General Wrangel, pushed forwards towards the north-west of Langensalza, and the other brigade, that of General Kummer, at Gotha; while the corps of General Flies was concentrated on the south of Langensalza, at Warza. General Flies, who commanded five battalions of infantry of the Prussian line, one dépôt battalion, two battalions of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and five battalions of Landwehr, with three squadrons, in all about twelve thousand men,¹ with twenty-two guns, advanced from Warza, and attacked the Hanoverian position on that forenoon. General Flies has been censured by military critics for making this attack so early, while, as will be seen in the sequel, his colleagues were still too far distant to render him

¹	3 Battalions, 11th Regiment	{ (1000 per Battalion)	5000
2	„ 25th „		
2	„ Saxe Coburg-Gotha	(900 per Battalion)	1800
	Dépôt Battalion 71st Regiment	(400 per Battalion)	400
	2 Battalions, 20th Landwehr Regiment	{ (800 per Battalion).	4000
2	„ 32d „		
1	„ 27th „		
	3 Squadrons (150 horsemen each)		450
			11,650
	Gunners		600
			12,250

assistance during the action which he thus precipitated. He has not, however, failed to find defenders of the course he pursued. It has been urged that the object of his attack was to hold the Hanoverian army on the Unstrut, and if this were his only object he was successful. Hanoverian sources of information, however, hardly allude to the supposition that King George was about to move to Tennstedt; and, unless General Flies had strong reasons for believing that his adversary meditated the immediate execution of such a movement, he was hardly justified in exposing himself to an unnecessary chance of disaster. It has also been said that General Manteuffel on the north was to fire two cannon as a signal to General Flies that he was ready to attack, and that the Hanoverians, having discovered this arrangement, gave the signal at an early hour from their own batteries. The Hanoverians, however, assert that their artillery only fired its first shot after General Flies's infantry attack had been well developed.

The position occupied by the Hanoverian army on the morning of the 27th lay along the sloping side of the line of hills which rises from the left bank of the river Unstrut. The right wing and centre rested on the villages of Thämsbrück and Merxleben; the left wing between the villages of Nügelstadt and Merxleben. The third brigade (Von Bülow) formed the right wing; the fourth brigade (Von Bothmer) the left; while in the centre was posted the first brigade (Von de Knesebeck), which at the beginning of the action was held in rear of the general line. The village of Merxleben, and the ground in front of it, was occupied by the second brigade (De Vaux),

which had its outposts pushed as far as Henningsleben, along the road to Warza. The artillery and cavalry of the reserve were posted behind Merxleben, near the road to Sundhausen, where the scanty depôts of ammunition and stores were established. The front of the position was covered by the river, which with its steep banks impeded at first the Prussian attack, but afterwards was an obstacle to the offensive advance and counter-attack of the Hanoverians.

At about nine o'clock on the morning of the 27th, the two Coburg battalions which formed the advanced guard of General Flies's column reached Henningsleben, and attacked the Hanoverian outposts there. These withdrew to Langensalza, occasionally checking their pursuers by the fire of their skirmishers. One Hanoverian battalion remained for a short time in Langensalza, but then the whole Hanoverian troops, which had been pushed along the Gotha road, withdrew across the Unstrut to Merxleben, and the Prussians occupied Langensalza before ten o'clock.

General Flies then made his arrangements for an attack on the main Hanoverian position. His artillery was very inferior numerically to that of the enemy, so he relied chiefly on his infantry fire. He sent a small column to make a feint against Thämsbrück, while he advanced two regiments of infantry against Merxleben, and detached a column of Landwehr to his right, in order to outflank, if possible, and turn the Hanoverian left.

On the Hanoverian side the first gun was fired between ten and eleven, from a battery of rifled 6-pounders



descending and ascending the banks, as well as in wading through the stream, prevented more of this brigade than one battalion of rifles from at first taking a share in the onset. The rest of the Hanoverian troops, however, supported by their artillery, pressed steadily forward, and bore down upon the Prussians, who retreated. Many prisoners were taken, but not without severe loss to the assailants, who soon occupied the wood and bathing-establishment beside the river.

The Prussians then drew off from every point, and a favourable opportunity occurred for a vigorous pursuit. But the disadvantage of a river in front of a position now became apparent. The cavalry could not ford the stream, nor approach it closely, on account of the boggy nature of its banks, and had to depend upon the bridges at Thämsbrück, Merxleben, and Nügelstalt. The Duke of Cambridge's regiment of dragoons issued from the latter village, and dashed forward quickly, but unsupported, against the Prussian line of retreat, and took several prisoners. As soon as the heavy cavalry of the reserve had threaded its way across the bridge of Merxleben, it also rushed upon the retreating Prussians. Two squares were broken by it, and many prisoners made, while Captain Von Einein, with his squadron of cuirassiers, captured a Prussian battery. But the horsemen of Hanover suffered fearfully from the deadly rapidity of the needle-gun, and Von Einein fell in the midst of his captured cannon.

The cavalry pursued the Prussians as far as Henningsleben, but a further pursuit, or an advance of the infantry even so far, was impossible, on account of

the fatigue of both men and horses, and the scarcity of provisions and ammunition.

About five o'clock the pursuit terminated, and the Hanoverians, masters of the field of battle, posted their outlying pickets on the south of Langensalza.

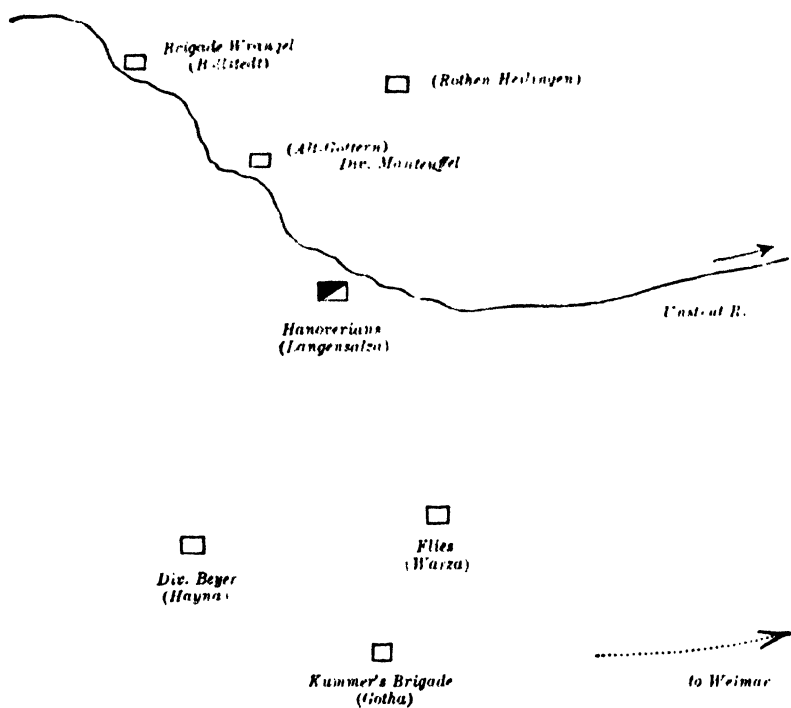
The total loss of the Hanoverians in killed and wounded was one thousand three hundred and ninety-two. The Prussians lost nine hundred and twelve prisoners, and probably about the same number as their enemies in killed and wounded. It is said that the Hanoverian infantry engaged did not number more than ten thousand men, because the recruits were sent to the rear, and during the day one thousand men were employed in throwing up earthworks. The Hanoverian cavalry consisted of twenty-four squadrons, of which eighteen certainly took part in the pursuit, and must have mustered at least nineteen hundred sabres. The artillery in action on that side consisted of forty-two guns. The Prussian force, as has been shown before, numbered about twelve thousand combatants, with twenty-two guns. It is extremely questionable how far General Flies was justified under these circumstances in precipitating an action.

The battle of Langensalza was of little avail to the gallant army which had won it. The troops of Hanover were now too intricately involved in the meshes of Falckenstein's strategy.

This general, on the 28th, closed in his divisions, and drew them tightly round the beleaguered Hanoverians, who, by the action of Langensalza, had repulsed but not cut through their assailants. The division of General

Manteuffel and the brigade of General Wrangel were pushed into the Hanoverian rear, and took up positions at Alt-Gottern, Rothen-Heiligen, and Bollstedt. The division of General Beyer was advanced from Eisenach to Hayna. General Flies was at Warza, and the brigade of General Kummer at Gotha was held ready to move

POSITIONS ON THE MORNING OF THE 29TH



by railway to Weimar, in order to head King George, in case he should march to the eastward on the left bank of the Unstrut. Forty thousand hostile combatants were knitted round the unfortunate monarch and his starving but devoted troops.

When these positions of the Prussians were reported to the King, he determined to avoid a holocaust of his soldiery. An action could hardly have been successful; it must have been desperate. The terms of capitulation which had been formerly proposed by Prussia, were agreed to on the evening of the 29th. Arms, carriages, and military stores were handed over to the Prussians: the Hanoverian soldiers were dismissed to their homes: the officers were allowed to retain their horses and their swords, on condition of not again serving against Prussia during the war. The King himself and the Crown Prince were allowed to depart whither they pleased, except within the boundaries of Hanover.

Political errors, and the supineness of Prince Charles of Bavaria, had at one stroke of the pen made a whole army captive, and blotted out from the roll of independent states one of the most renowned of continental principalities.

This disaster of the Hanoverian army was due in a less degree to the uncertain action of its leaders than to the improvidence of its administrators, and the blindness of the political guardians of its country. Still there is no doubt that, on the days preceding the 25th June, the army of King George could easily have forced its way through the small knot of its enemies at Gotha, and have secured a safe retreat, provided only that it had been directed to march boldly forward. Its subsequent conduct at Langensalza compels us to believe that its organization at this time must have been sufficiently advanced to allow it to take this course. For the reasons that it did not do so its military directors must be responsible.

Yet, whoever is to blame for the calamitous results of its expiring campaign, none can regard, without a feeling of sympathy and emotion, the last struggles of a proud and high-minded soldiery, who bore up ineffectually for days against privation, hardship, and superior numbers ; who even hoped against hope ; who rallied round their king in the hour of his misfortune, and strove to carry him, by the pressure of their bayonets, through the clustering bands of hostile combatants. Hanoverians may well look with a mournful satisfaction on Langensalza. British soldiers may justly feel a generous pride in the last campaign of an army which mingled its blood with that of their ancestors on the battle-fields of Spain and Belgium, and not unworthily rank the name of the battle which closes the last page of Hanoverian history with Salamanca, Talavera, Quatre Bras, and Waterloo.

CHAPTER II.

CAMPAIGN ON THE MAINE.

WHEN Prussia determined upon war, she resolved to throw herself with her main force upon Austria, since that Power was the leader and backbone of the coalition against her. With the intention of crushing the Austrian army in Bohemia and Moravia, the whole of the regular corps d'armée of the Prussian service were directed upon those countries. Westphalia and the Rhenish provinces were denuded of their regular troops, which were marched to the Austrian frontier. To protect the western provinces of Prussia from the allies of Austria, to overrun Hanover and Hesse-Cassel, and then to act against the allies of Austria in the south-west of Germany, was the task entrusted to General Vogel von Falckenstein. He was provided with an army hastily collected together from the Elbe duchies, and from the garrisons of the neighbouring fortresses.

With this army, General Von Falckenstein had to be prepared to take the field against the Bavarians and the seventh corps of the late Germanic Confederation. Previous to engaging with these adversaries, he was forced to occupy Hanover and Hesse-Cassel, and to pursue and disarm the Hanoverian troops. These pre-

liminaries cost the Prussian general the loss of fourteen days of valuable time, and allowed the eighth Federal corps to assemble its heterogeneous constituents, and organize them round Frankfort. There can be no doubt but that if, on the 18th or 19th June, General Falckenstein had been able to concentrate his divisions near Wetzlar, and to have marched immediately upon Frankfort, he would have entirely prevented the collection of the troops of Baden, Würtemberg, and Hesse, and have annihilated in detail their separated divisions.

On the other hand, fortune favoured Falckenstein, inasmuch as that during this fortnight the main armies of his opponents remained inactive, and, with the exception of some petty demonstrations, began to develop no energy until quite the end of June, when he himself, after the capitulation of the Hanoverians, was free to turn his unrestricted attention to them, and had concentrated his whole army at Gotha and Eisenach.

The army thus assembled under General Von Falckenstein consisted of three divisions. These were the division of Lieutenant-General Von Goeben, which consisted of the 13th, 53d, 15th and 55th regiments of infantry, with the 8th regiment of hussars, and 4th regiment of cuirassiers. It mustered in all, at this time, about thirteen thousand men, with twenty-four guns, and was divided into two brigades, one commanded by General Kummer, the other by General Wrangel. One division was the division of General Von Beyer, which had been formed from the garrisons of the Federal fortresses of Mayence, Rastadt, Luxemburg, and Frankfort-on-Maine, and consisted of the 19th, 20th, 30th, 32d,

34th, 39th and 70th regiments of infantry, with the 9th regiment of hussars,—altogether twenty-one thousand five hundred men, with forty-two guns. Another the division of General Von Manteuffel, which had formerly garrisoned the duchy of Schleswig; it consisted of the 25th, 36th, 11th, and 59th regiments of infantry, and the 5th and 9th dragoons,—in all thirteen thousand men, with thirty guns. The command of this division was shortly afterwards given to General Von Flies. To the Army of the Maine were also attached two battalions of the duchy of Saxe-Coburg, one of Oldenburg, and one of Lippe-Detmold, which numbered together about two thousand five hundred combatants. General Von Falckenstein had thus under his orders as nearly as possible fifty thousand men, with ninety-six guns.¹ The battalions of Landwehr and the depôt troops which had fought at Langensalza were not retained with the army, but were dismissed to rejoin the garrisons of those fortresses from which they had been taken.

Opposed to the Prussian Army of the Maine stood, after the capitulation of the Hanoverians, the seventh and eighth corps of the Germanic Confederation. The seventh Federal corps consisted of the army of Bavaria, which was under the command of Prince Charles of Bavaria, who was also Commander-in-chief of the two corps. The Bavarian army was divided into three divisions, each of which consisted of two brigades. A brigade was formed of two regiments of infantry of the

¹ Later five fourth battalions, a newly-raised rifle battalion, and three newly-raised Landwehr cavalry regiments, as well as the Oldenburg-Hanseatic bri-

gade, consisting of seven battalions, six squadrons, and two batteries, reinforced this army.

Line, each of three battalions; a battalion of light infantry, a regiment of cavalry, and a battery of artillery. There was also a reserve brigade of infantry, which consisted of five Line regiments and two battalions of rifles. The reserve cavalry consisted of six regiments, the reserve artillery of two batteries. The first division was under the command of General Stephan, the second under General Feder, the third under General Zoller. The infantry of the reserve was commanded by General Hartmann, the cavalry by a prince of the House of Thurn and Taxis. The whole army numbered over fifty thousand sabres and bayonets, with one hundred and thirty-six guns.¹ The chief of the staff of Prince Charles was General Von der Tann, who was a tried commander of a division, but failed to fulfil the necessities of a position even more arduous than that of Commander-in-chief.

The Bavarian army in the middle of June was posted along the northern frontier of its own kingdom in positions intended to cover that country from an invasion from the north or east. Its head-quarters were at Bamberg, its extreme right wing at Hof, and its extreme left wing near the confluence of the Franconian Saale with the Maine, between Schweinfurt and Gemünden.

The eighth Federal corps, under the command of Prince

¹ Each battalion of the Line mustered on paper 950 men; each rifle battalion 668; and each regiment of cavalry 591 horsemen. This would give a total of 58,036 combatants; but from this number several deductions have to be made for sickness and incomplete battalions. The number stated in the text has been carefully compiled from the comparison of many authorities. Theoretically, Bavaria possessed a large force

of Landwehr; but as the *cadres* of the Landwehr battalions were not maintained in peace, and no arrangements made for their clothing or armament in case of the outbreak of a war, these auxiliary troops never paraded during the earlier operations of the war, except upon paper; and only once, during the whole of the campaign, near Bayreuth, did a detachment of these troops take a part in any action.

Alexander of Hesse, consisted of the Federal contingents of Würtemberg, Baden, Hesse, and a combined division; which included the Austrian auxiliary brigade and the troops of Nassau. The whole corps mustered forty-nine thousand eight hundred sabres and bayonets, with one hundred and thirty-four guns.¹ Prince Alexander

¹ The Order of Battle of this eighth Federal corps was :—

1st (Würtemberg) Division.—Lieutenant-General Von Hardegg.

1st Infantry Brigade (1st and 5th Regiments and 3d Jäger Battalion).—Major-General Von Baumbach.

2d Infantry Brigade (2d and 7th Regiments and 3d Jäger Battalion).—Major-General Von Fischer.

3d Infantry Brigade (3d and 8th Regiments and 1st Jäger Battalion).—Major-General Hegelmeier.

Cavalry Brigade (1st, 3d, and 4th Regiments).—Major-General Count Von Scheler.

Artillery, Six Batteries of Eight Guns.

2d (Baden) Division.—Prince William of Baden.

Infantry—Commander, Lieutenant-General Waag.

1st Brigade (Grenadier and 5th Regiments and a Jäger Battalion).—Major-General Von la Roche.

2d Brigade (2d and 3d Regiments and Fusilier Battalion).—Colonel Von Neubronn.

Cavalry, 1st, 2d, and 3d Dragoons.

Artillery, Five Batteries of Six Guns.

3d (Hesse-Darmstadt) Division.—Lieutenant-General Von Perglas.

1st Brigade (1st and 2d Regiments and one Jäger Company).—Major-General Frey.

2d Brigade (3d and 4th Regiments and one Jäger Company).—Major-General Von Stockhausen.

A Battalion of Sharpshooters was attached to the Division.

Cavalry Brigade (two Regiments of Light Horse).—Prince Louis of Hesse.

Artillery, Four Batteries of Six Guns.

4th (Combined) Division.—Lieutenant-Field-Marshal Count Neipperg.

Austrian Brigade.—Major-General Hohn.

Three Battalions of the 16th Infantry Regiment (Italians).

One Battalion of the 49th " "

One " " 21st " "

One " " 74th " "

The 35th Jäger Battalion.

Two Batteries of Eight Guns.

Nassau Brigade (1st and 2d Regiments and a Jäger Battalion).—Major-General Roth.

Artillery, Two Batteries of Eight Guns.

To this Division were attached two squadrons of the Hussars of Hesse-Cassel.

assumed the command of this corps on the 18th June, and established his head-quarters at Darmstadt.

The Elector of Hesse-Cassel had sent his troops to the south as soon as the Prussians invaded his territory. By a decree of the Diet of the 22d June, they were placed under the orders of the commander of the eighth Federal corps. On account of their rapid retreat from Cassel, their preparations for war were interrupted, and little could as yet be expected from them in the open field. On the 29th June, when Prince Alexander received orders for an advance of his corps, he directed the Hesse-Cassel contingent, on this account, to retire to Mainz, there to cover the Rhine, and the country in the immediate vicinity of that fortress. Two squadrons of hussars alone he retained as the divisional cavalry of his fourth division. These, as well as the troops of Hesse-Darmstadt, were ready for action. The troops of Würtemberg and Baden still wanted time; those of Baden particularly: for their duchy entered only unwillingly into the war against Prussia. Würtemberg had sent an infantry brigade, a regiment of cavalry, and two batteries on the 17th June, to Frankfort. These were intended to unite with the troops of Hesse-Darmstadt already assembling there, and to form a guard for the Rump Diet which still held its sittings at that town.

The next Würtemberg brigade joined the corps only on the 28th June, the last brigade on the 5th July. On the 17th June the Government called up its furlough and reserve soldiers, and organized its division. The first Baden brigade reached Frankfort on the 25th June, where the Austrian brigade had arrived only a few days before.

The rest of the troops and the transport trains did not come in till the 8th July. The 9th July can be considered to have been the first day on which the eighth Federal corps was first ready to take the field. While these minor Governments were still assembling their small contingents, the troops of Prussia had long been in possession of Saxony and Hesse, had caused the surrender of the Hanoverian army, and already inflicted a crushing defeat on the main forces of Austria.

The Bavarian army lay along the Maine, with its first division towards Hof, its fourth towards Gemünden. The Bavarian Government was anxious to make an advance upon Berlin, by way of Hof; but the general strategical movements of all the allies of Austria were, in virtue of a convention concluded between Austria and Bavaria on the 14th June, directed from Vienna. The directing genius decided against any offensive movement in a north-easterly direction: and insisted strongly on a junction of the Bavarian and eighth Federal corps between Würzburg and Frankfort, in order to then move against the Prussian provinces on the north-west. The aim of Austria was to compel Prussia to detach strong bodies from her troops engaged with Benedek, and go to weaken her main army. The Bavarian and eighth corps when united were to have the name of the West German Federal Army.

On the 21st June, Prince Charles of Bavaria heard that the Hanoverians had moved from Göttingen. On the 23d he knew certainly that they had marched to Mühlhausen and Langensalza. On the 25th for the first time he made any movement of importance. On that day

the Bavarian army was set in motion towards the north. That evening the advanced guard of the first cavalry brigade entered Meiningen : the main body reached that town in the night between the 26th and 27th. Communications with the Hanoverians had been cut off, and Prince Charles, uncertain of their exact position, on the 28th had ordered his columns to move towards Fulda. News reached him, however, of the commencement of the battle of Langensalza, and, changing the direction of his march, he moved towards Gotha. The same evening a despatch arrived from Vienna which urged a rapid advance of the Bavarians. Forced marches were ordered, and the troops, to raise their enthusiasm, received double pay for the first two days. On the 29th, the first division, followed by the second, reached Hilburghausen ; the fourth, followed by the third, pushed past Meiningen. It was only when the advanced guards had reached Zella, in the Thuringian Forest, that they received counter-orders : for Count Ingelheim, the Austrian ambassador at the court of King George, had arrived with the intelligence that the Hanoverians had laid down their arms. Thus the forced marching of two days had been lost, and the Bavarian army had commenced its campaign without result or glory, on account of too tardy an assumption of the initiative. On the 29th the riflemen and light horsemen who formed the advanced guard of the first division reached Schleusingen ; on the 30th the main column entered that place. The forced marches of the 29th and 30th had fatigued the troops. The constant succession of orders and counter-orders had wearied them, for they saw that all their exertions were

neutralized by altered commands, or by changes in the direction of the line of march. Before the commencement of actual war their confidence in their leaders had waned, for the men saw no grounds for the fatigues laid upon them. The capitulation of the Hanoverians dispirited them, the more so as it was popularly attributed to the vacillation, the cowardice, sometimes indeed to the treachery, of the Bavarian army. Still the Prince hoped to unite with the eighth Federal corps by a flank march to his left, along the roads which lead by Geissen to Hünfeld, and by Hildern to Fulda. The success of this movement was however prevented, as will be afterwards seen, by the sudden appearance of the Prussians.

The eighth Federal corps had, by the 27th June, assembled about 39,000 men, with eighty guns.¹ Since another Würtemberg brigade, another cavalry regiment, and two more batteries were expected to come in on the following day, it considered itself strong enough to assume the offensive, and the following orders were issued for the 28th June:—The troops of Hesse-Darmstadt were to form the advanced guard, with two brigades of infantry, two rifled 6-pounder batteries, a regiment of cavalry, and a bridge train. The first and fourth divisions formed the main body: each consisted of two brigades of infantry; the first division had three batteries of artillery and a regiment of cavalry attached to it; the second had two batteries of artillery, a regiment of cavalry, and two squadrons

¹ 1st Division, 5,200 Infantry, with 1,100 Cavalry and 16 Guns.

2d	„	4,500	„	240	„	6	„
3d	„	10,000	„	2,600	„	24	„
4th	„	12,000	„	1,000	„	32	„

of Hesse-Cassel hussars attached. The reserve consisted of five battalions of the Bavarian brigade of La Roche, six regiments of cavalry, and thirty-four guns, of which sixteen were rifled. The advanced guard on the 29th June took up a position around Friedberg, about eighteen miles north of Frankfort, with its right on the river Nidda. On the 30th the Commander-in-chief broke up his head-quarters at Frankfort, and ordered a general advance. He intended to move upon Alsfeld, a town which, on the Schwalen, still in the territory of Hesse-Darmstadt, lies close to the frontier of Hesse-Cassel. Prince Alexander considered himself secure from any attack on his left flank by Prussian detachments from the Rhine provinces, because of the troops of Hesse-Cassel in Mainz. The division of Baden on the 1st July occupied Giessen, and paid a short visit to the Prussian town of Wetzlar, and on the 2d July Prince Alexander held a position from Giessen eastwards to Grünberg, on the road to Alsfeld.

Here he received a despatch from Prince Charles of Bavaria, which had been sent from Meiningen on the evening of the 30th June. This altered the direction of the march of the eighth Federal corps.

It does not appear clear whether Prince Alexander, in his design of an advance to Alsfeld, was acting in compliance with an order from Prince Charles of Bavaria, or whether on his own responsibility he moved forward to cover the territory of Hesse-Cassel from invasion. The direction of the movement shows, however, that he who ordered it, be he who he may, was singularly ill-furnished with intelligence of his enemy's movements. By making

for Alsfeld Prince Alexander not only would have exposed his right flank and his line of communication to the head of Falckenstein's columns, but would have increased the difficulties of his junction with Prince Charles. As it was, at the time that Prince Charles sent to change the line of march of the eighth corps, these difficulties were already formidable enough. An interval of between eighty and ninety miles separated the two bodies: and not only did the valley of the Fulda as well as that of the Werra intervene, but rugged hills rose between them, such as the Vogels-Berg, and the Hohe Rhön. It did not need such a keen general as Falckenstein to perceive the advantages he would derive if he drove the Prussian army as a mighty wedge between these separated corps, and hurled himself with full force on the nearest ere the other could arrive to its assistance. In his own immediate command Prince Charles showed vacillation and uncertainty. He did not strive with all energy to liberate the Hanoverians, and unite them with his own force. Nor when he found himself too late to achieve this object did he take rapid measures for a concentration with the eighth corps. On the contrary, instead of making towards his left, he drew away to his right, apparently with the object of crossing another difficult mountain country, the Thuringian forest, and placing that obstacle also between himself and his allies, while he left the valley of the Werra open to his antagonist as a groove down which to drive the wedge that should separate the Bavarians entirely from Prince Alexander.

On the evening of the 30th June he for the first time appears to have decided upon a concentrative move,

ment. He then issued orders that both corps should seek to unite at Fulda. To accomplish this, the Bavarians were to move in a westerly, the Federals in an easterly, direction. The latter began to move with this object on the 3d July. Prince Alexander moved with his first and third division that day to Ulrichstein, a small town on the northern issues of the Vogels-Berge. With his second division he occupied Geissen and Wetzlar to secure his line of communication with Frankfort, and sent his fourth division to Friedberg. His cavalry was sent out to scour the country towards Alsfeld and Marburg. He evidently expected his enemy by the railway from Marburg, and took these precautions to cover his flank march. On the 4th July head-quarters remained inactive at Ulrichstein, and some patrols alone pushed forward. Here again was a lack of energy and clear-sightedness. Portions of any army which are separated, and desire to concentrate in the presence of an enemy, should exert all their powers to do so, and not waste a single hour, far less halt on the second day of the march.

How false these news were became soon apparent. On the 4th July news came to the head-quarters of Prince Alexander, that strong Prussian columns were moving on Fulda from Hünfeld and Gerza, towns which lie between the Werra and the Fulda. An advance of the eighth corps prepared for battle, and with all precautions, was ordered for the next day. During this, however, the Prussian and Bavarian troops had come into contact.

General Falckenstein had, after the capitulation of the Hanoverians on the 29th of June, concentrated on the

1st July his three divisions at Eisenach. To this united corps was given the name of the Army of the Maine. On the 2d July, Falckenstein took the main road which leads from Eisenach by Fulda to Frankfort, and reached Marksahl that day. His intention was to press the Bavarians eastwards. These occupied a position at that time with their main body near Meiningen, on the west of the Werra. Two divisions were posted on that river, near Schmalkalden, to cover the passage of that stream against a Prussian corps which was expected from Erfurt. The cavalry was intended to open communications with the eighth corps in the direction of Fulda.

On the night of the 2d July, the same night that the troops of Prince Frederick Charles in Bohemia were moving towards the field of Königgrätz, a Bavarian reconnoitring party fell in with one of Falckenstein's patrols. On the 3d July the Prussian reconnoitring officers brought in reports that the Bavarians were in force round Wiesenthal, on the river Felde. It was clear to Falckenstein that this position was held by the heads of the Bavarian columns which were moving to unite with the eighth corps. The Prussian general could not afford to permit the enemy to lie in a position so close and threatening to the left flank of his advance. He ordered General Goeben to push them back on the following morning, by forming to his left, and attacking the villages on the Felde in front, while General Mantuffel's division should move up the stream, and assail them on the right flank. The third division, that of General Beyer, was in the meantime to push its march towards Fulda.

ACTION OF WIESENTHAL.

The Bavarian general, on the 3d of July, having obtained information of the vicinity of the Prussians, concentrated his army. That evening he occupied the villages of Wiesenthal, Neidhartshausen, Zella, and Diedorf, with considerable strength. His main body bivouacked round Rossdorf, and in rear of that village.

At five o'clock in the morning of the 4th July, General Goeben sent Wrangel's brigade against Wiesenthal, and Kummer's against Neidhartshausen. The latter village, as well as the neighbouring heights, were found strongly occupied by the enemy. They were carried only after a long and hard battle, the scene of which was marked by numbers of Prussians killed and wounded. Towards noon the Bavarian detachments which had been driven from Neidhartshausen and Zella received reinforcements. Prince Charles determined to hold Diedorf. He ordered a brigade to advance beyond this village, and take up a position on the hills on the further side. The Prussians opened a heavy fire of artillery and small arms from Zella upon the advancing Bavarians. Under this fire the latter could not gain ground, and no change in the positions of the combatants took place at this point, until the termination of the action.

In the meantime a severe combat had been fought at Wiesenthal. At the same time that General Kummer left Dermbach, he detached two battalions to his left, which were to occupy the defile of Lindenau, while Wrangel's brigade advanced against Wiesenthal. Wrangel's ad-

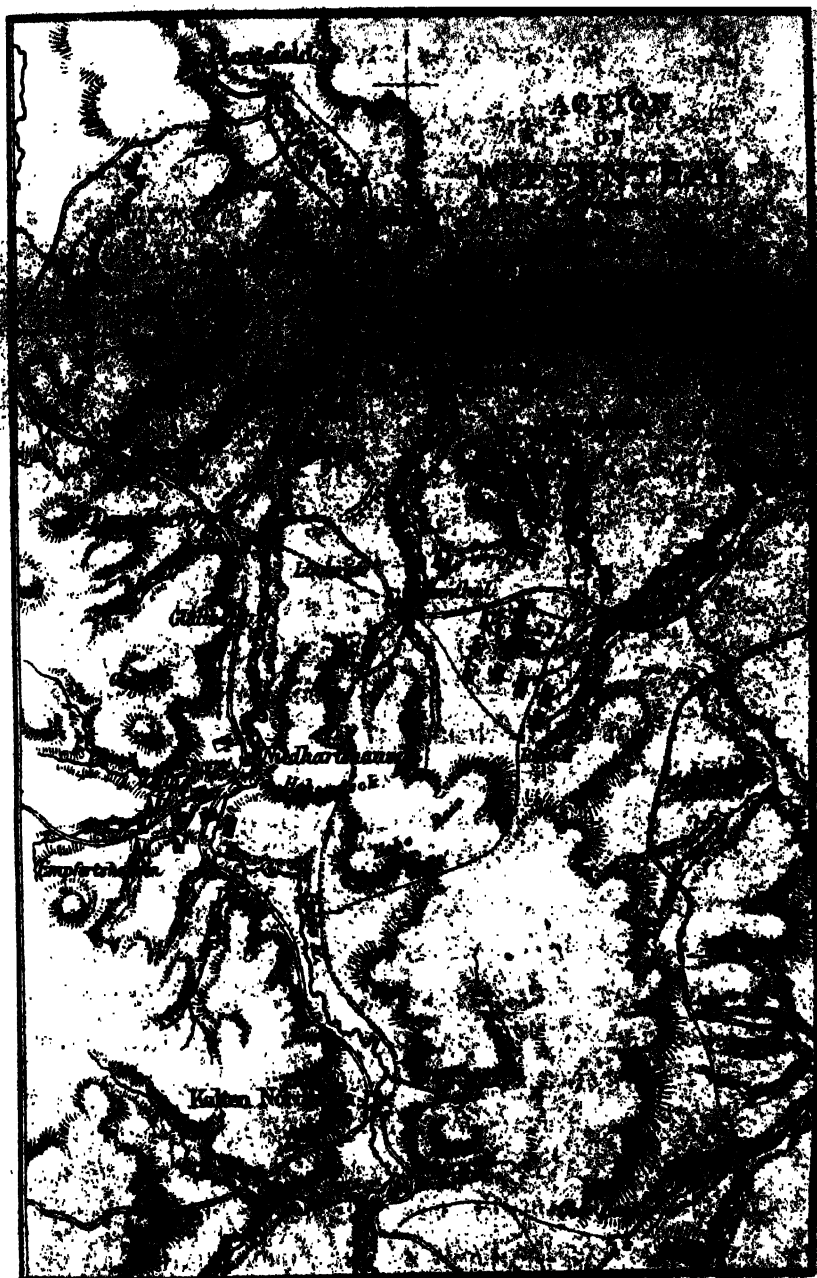


Figure 1. Kathar, India.

vanced guard consisted of a squadron of cavalry and a battalion of infantry, which moved along the road in column of companies. Hardly had it reached the high ground in front of the village, when it was sharply assailed by a well-directed fire of bullets and shot. The heavy rain prevented the men from seeing clearly what was in their front, but they pressed on, and the enemy was pushed back into the barricaded village, and up the hills on its southern side. Before the Prussian advanced guard reached Wiesenthal, the rain cleared up. The Bavarians could be seen hurrying to evacuate the place, and taking up a position with four battalions, a battery, and several squadrons at the foot of the Nebelsberg. The Prussian battalion from Lindenau had arrived on the south flank of Wiesenthal. Another battalion came up with that of the advanced guard, and the Prussians occupied the village. The Prussian artillery also arrived, and came into action with great effect against a Bavarian battery posted on the south-west of Wiesenthal. At the same time the needle-gun told severely on the Bavarian battalions at the foot of the Nebelsberg. Three of these retired into the woods which cover the summit of that hill, while the fourth took post behind the rising ground. Swarms of Prussian skirmishers swept swiftly across the plain in front, and made themselves masters of the edge of the wood. But the Bavarians held fast to the trees inside, and would not be ousted. Two fresh batteries of Bavarian artillery, and several new battalions, were seen hurrying up from Rossdorf. At this moment it was supposed that Manteuffel's cannonade was heard opening in the direction of Nornshausen. This was in truth but

the echo of the engaged artillery. But the Prussian columns hurried forward, and dashed with the bayonet against the wood-crested hill. The Bavarians awaited the charge, and their riflemen made serious impressions upon the advancing masses. But the men of Westphalia rushed on. After a short, sharp struggle, the hill was carried; and the Bavarians fled down the reverse slope, leaving hundreds of corpses, grisly sacrifices to the needle-gun, to mark the line of their flight. General Goeben had achieved his object. He halted his troops, and prepared to rejoin Falckenstein. Leaving a rear-guard of one battalion, three squadrons, and a battery to cover his movement, and the removal of the killed and wounded, he withdrew his two brigades to Dermbach. The Bavarian march to unite with the eighth corps had been checked, and Falckenstein had lodged his leading columns securely between the separated portions of his adversary's army. The Bavarians in the night, finding their road barred, retired, to seek a junction with Prince Alexander by some other route. They did not, however, move over the western spurs of the Hohe Rhön, in the direction of Brückenau, whence they might have stretched a hand to Prince Alexander, who on the night between the 5th and 6th July was only seven miles from Fulda. They preferred to move by the woods on the eastern side of the mountains towards the Franconian Saale and Kissingen. Thus they made a movement which separated them from their allies, instead of bringing the two corps close together. Prince Alexander had sent an officer to the Bavarian camp. He was present on the 4th July at the action of Wiesenthal, and returned to the head-

quarters of the eighth Federal corps with a report of the failure of the Bavarians. On the receipt of this intelligence, Prince Alexander appears to have abandoned all hope of effecting a junction with Prince Charles north of the Maine. He faced about, and moved back to Frankfort, a town which, until its subsequent occupation by the Prussians, appears always to have had a singular attraction for the eighth Federal corps.

On the 4th July, the same day that General Goeben pressed the Bavarians back at Wiesenthal, the leading division of Falckenstein's army had a singular skirmish in the direction of Hünfeld. As General Beyer, who commanded the Prussian advanced guard, approached that town, he found two squadrons of Bavarian cavalry in front of him. Two guns accompanied these squadrons, which opened fire on the advancing Prussians. The weather was wet, and a clammy mist held the smoke of the cannon, so that it hung like a weighty cloud over the mouths of the pieces. A Prussian battery opened in reply. The first shot so surprised the Bavarians, who had not anticipated that there was artillery with the advanced guard, that the cuirassiers turned about, and sought safety in a wild flight. They left one of their guns, which in their haste had not time to be limbered up. Beyer pressed forward, and found Hünfeld evacuated by the enemy. Indeed it is said that these cuirassiers, who had been pushed forward by Prince Alexander to open communications with Prince Charles, were so dismayed by one well-aimed cannon-shot, that many of them did not draw rein till they reached Wurzburg.

Prince Alexander withdrew towards Frankfort. Falck-

enstein pushed forward on the 6th; he occupied Fulda with Beyer's division, while Goeben and Manteuffel encamped on the north towards Hünfeld. The object of the Prussian advance was obtained. On the 5th July the Bavarians and the eighth Federal corps were separated from each other by only thirty miles; on the 7th seventy miles lay between them.

Prince Alexander left the Würtemberg division to hold the passes of the Vogels Berg towards Giessen. The Bavarians, after the action of Wiesenthal, drew back and took up a position in the neighbourhood of Kissingen, on the Franconian Saale.

General Falckenstein, on the 7th, united his whole army at Fulda. He had the choice of attacking either of his separated enemies. To pursue the eighth Federal corps by Giessen would probably allow it to unite with the Bavarians by moving up the Maine. To advance directly upon Frankfort with the Bavarians on the Saale in his flank and rear, and with the defiles of Gelnhausen, occupied by the eighth corps, in his front, would be extremely hazardous.

Prince Charles was also considered the more formidable antagonist, and the one upon whom it was the more necessary to inflict a heavy blow.

On the 8th July General Falckenstein commenced his march from Fulda. He did not turn towards Gelnhausen, as was expected in the Bavarian camp, but moved against the position of Prince Charles. On the 9th the Prussian army reached Brückenau, and orders were given for a flank march to the left, over the Hohe Rhön, against the Bavarians on the Saale. Beyer's division moved as

the right wing along the road to Hammelburg ; Goeben advanced in the centre towards Kissingen; and Mantuffel on the left upon Waldaschach. On the morning of the 10th July, at nine o'clock, Beyer's division, which had received very doubtful intelligence of the presence of the Bavarians in Hammelburg, began its march towards that town. About eleven the head of the advanced guard fell in with the first patrols of the enemy's cavalry in front of Unter Erthal, a small village on the road from Brückenau, about two miles south of Hammelburg. These retired on the Prussian advance, but unmasked a rifled battery, posted beyond the houses. A Prussian field-battery quickly unlimbered and came into action. Under cover of its fire an infantry regiment made a dash at the bridge by which the road from Brückenau crosses the Thulba stream. The bridge was not seriously defended, and after a short cannonade the Bavarians drew back to Hammelburg. At mid-day three Prussian batteries topped the Hobels Berg, and after a few rounds from the guns the infantry rushed down with loud cheers to carry the houses. This was, however, not an easy task. The Bavarian General Zoller held the town with something over three thousand men ; he determined to bar the passage of the Saale. The odds were too unequal. The Prussians numbered about fifteen thousand men. Yet the Bavarians clung with a high courage to the houses, and opened a biting fire of small arms on the assailants. Their artillery, too, supported well the infantry defence.

Two Prussian infantry regiments threw out skirmishers, and attempted to put down the fire of the

Bavarian riflemen. But these were protected by the cover of the houses ; and the defenders' artillery from the hill of Saalch splintered its shells among the ranks of the Prussian sharpshooters. The fight did not gain ground for about an hour. After that interval two more Prussian regiments and two additional batteries came into play. Heavily the Prussian pieces threw their metal upon the Bavarian guns at Saalch. The fire of the latter grew weaker and weaker. They were rapidly being silenced by superior force. Some houses, kindled by the Prussian shells, at the same time caught fire, and the town began to burn fiercely in three places. Still the Bavarians clung to the bridge, and stood their ground, careless equally of the flames and of the heavy cannonade. Beyer sent forward his Jägers to storm the place. No longer could the defenders endure the assault. The quick bullets of the needle-gun rained in showers among the burning buildings, scattering fire and death among the garrison. The defence had to be abandoned ; and the Bavarians, pursued by salvos of artillery, drew off to the south-east, and the Prussians gained the passage of the Saale at Hammelburg.

On the same day as General Beyer fought the action of Hammelburg on the right, Falckenstein's central column was heavily engaged with the main body of the Bavarians at the celebrated bathing-place of Kissingen. On the 5th July eighty Bavarian troopers, flying from Hünfeld, passed in hot haste through the town. The visitors and the inhabitants were much alarmed, but the Burgomaster quieted them by a promise that he would give twenty-four hours' warn-

ing if the place was in danger of being attacked by the Prussians. This assurance had more weight, because even on the 8th July Bavarian staff-officers sauntered about the Kurgarten as quietly as if in a time of the most profound peace. Some of the troops which had been quartered in Kissingen and its neighbourhood were on the 9th sent to Hammelburg. All appeared still, and yet the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages were already flying from their homes to avoid the Prussians. The Bavarian intelligence department does not appear to have been well managed. By mid-day on the 9th it was too late for the Burgomaster to give his warning that the Prussians were already near. The Bavarians concentrated about twenty thousand men, and took up their position. The visitors and inhabitants could not now retire, and had to remain to be the involuntary witnesses of an action. Those who lived in the Hotel Sauner, which lies on the right bank of the Saale, were allowed to move into the less exposed part of the town. None were permitted to quit the place for fear of their conveying intelligence of the Bavarian dispositions to the enemy. The wooden bridge over the Saale, as well as the two iron ones, were destroyed, but of one iron one in front of the Alten Berg the supports were left. It was through the assistance of these that the Prussians gained the first passage of the river; for they knew the localities well, as many of their staff-officers had frequently visited the fashionable watering-place of Kissingen. The stone bridge was barricaded hastily as well as possible, and its approach protected by two 12-pounder guns. Five battalions, with twelve guns, held the town itself. The Bavarians

had chosen a very strong position ; they held the houses next to the bridge as well as the bank of the Saale beyond the bridge. Their artillery was posted on the Stadt Berg, but not on the important Finster Berg. A battery on the latter hill would have prevented the Prussians from gaining the passage of the river from the Alten Berg. Behind the village of Haussen guns were also in position. All the bridges outside of Kissingen were destroyed, and all points favourable for defence occupied by infantry. General Zoller commanded the Bavarians.

On the 10th July, at early morning, Prussian hussars appeared. Columns were soon afterwards descried on the roads towards Klaushof and Garitz on the west of Kissingen ; and a battery came into position on a hill between Garitz and the river. At half-past seven in the morning, the Bavarian guns near Winkels and the two 12-pounders at the bridge opened on the leading Prussian columns, which consisted of General Kummer's brigade. Kummer's artillery replied, and in a short time the rattle of musketry, mingling with the heavier booming of the guns, told that he was sharply engaged.

The main body of Goeben's division had in the mean time reached Schlimhoff. Here it received orders to detach three battalions by Poppenroth and Klaushof, who were to attack Friedericsshall under the command of Colonel Goltz. When General Wrangel's brigade approached Kissingen, it received orders to advance on the right wing of Kummer's brigade, to seize the Alten Berg, and if possible, by extending to its right, to outflank the Bavarian position. A squadron was sent at the same

time to reconnoitre the ground beyond Garitz. A battalion was despatched as an advanced guard against the Alten Berg; and a battery of artillery came into action on the northern spur of that hill. The Alten Berg was quickly cleared of Bavarian riflemen by the Prussian Jägers. A company under Captain Von Busche was then sent against the bridge on the south of Kissingen, which the Bavarians had partially destroyed, but where the piers had been left standing. Tables, forms, and timber were seized from some neighbouring houses, and with secrecy and rapidity the broken bridge was so far restored that before mid-day men could cross it in single file. Von Busche led his company over the stream, and then directed his men against a road on the further side, from the cover of which the enemy's marksmen annoyed them considerably. This company was followed by a second, and as quickly as possible a whole battalion was thrown across the stream. The battalion gained the wood on the south-east of Kissingen; here a column was formed, and under cover of many skirmishers advanced against the town. More men were pushed across the repaired bridge, and soon two and a half Prussian battalions were engaged in a street fight among the houses. The remaining portion of Wrangel's brigade was at this time directed in support of Kummer against the principal bridge. Infantry and artillery fire caused the Prussians severe losses, but they pushed on towards the barricade. Their artillery outnumbered that of the defending force, and, protected by it, the battalions carried the bridge.

The army of Bavaria boasted to have had at that

time a hundred and twenty-six cannon. Of these only twelve came into action at Kissingen, five at Hammelburg. The rest were uselessly scattered along the bank of the Saale, between these two places.

The passage of the stream by the Prussians decided the action. They secured the Finster Berg and the Bodenlaube, with the old castle of that name, and pushed forward with loud cheers into the heart of the town. Here the Bavarian light infantry fought hard, and, suffering heavy sacrifices themselves, inflicted grievous loss on the Prussians. The Kurgarten, held by three hundred riflemen, was stormed three times by Wrangel's men without success. It was carried on the fourth assault. A young lieutenant, who commanded the Bavarians, with the whole of his men, refused quarter, and died in the place they had held so well. At a little after three the whole town was carried.

The Bavarians did not yet renounce the combat. The corps which retreated from Kissingen took up a position on the hill east of the town, and renewed the battle. Wrangel's brigade received orders to clear the hills south of the road which leads to Nudlingen, of the enemy. This was to be effected by the fusilier battalion and the second battalion of the 55th regiment. The first battalion of the same regiment cleared the way, and, extended as skirmishers, advanced along the road. The other troops followed in reserve. The Bavarians had taken up a position on both sides of the road, and greeted the Prussians with an artillery fire from the Sinn Berg. They fought well, and not till seven o'clock did Wrangel occupy Winkels. The Bavarians were supposed to be

retiring, and Wrangel's troops were about to bivouac, when a report came in from the 19th, which had acquired the outposts, that the Bavarians were advancing in force. Two battalions of the 55th, a 12-pounder battery, and a squadron of hussars, were immediately sent to reinforce the outlying troops, while two companies of the 55th were sent into the hills on the right to menace the left flank of the enemy's advance. The battery and squadron advanced at a trot. General Wrangel in person went to the outposts, and was receiving the reports from the commanding officer of the 19th, when some rifle bullets came from the southern hill into the closed columns of the regiment. The Bavarians, under Prince Charles himself, had come down with nine fresh battalions of their first division. They had seized the hills which lie on the north of the road, and were pressing rapidly forward under the cover of their artillery. The Prussian cavalry and battery, as well as the 19th regiment, were pushed back. The 55th, coming up, threw themselves into a hollow road, and, under the protection of their fire, the retreat was for a time checked. Prince Charles urged on, however, superior forces, and those, too, had to retire.

The Prussians now took up a position on the heights south-east of Winkels, where two batteries came into play. The retreating battalions halted here, and the fight stood still. One battalion of the 19th regiment and two companies of the soldiers of Lippe were sent by Wrangel into the hills on the north of the road, while the second battalion of the 55th was pushed up there on its southern side. As soon as these flanking

troops had gained their positions, the whole brigade advanced in double-quick time, with drums beating. The charge succeeded, though the loss was great. The Bavarians were driven back. The Prussians regained their former position, and Prince Charles relinquished his attack.

The Prussian left column, which was formed by Man-
teuffel's division, on the 10th July also secured the passage at Waldaschach, about five miles above Kissingen, and at Haussen. At neither place did the Bavarians make any obstinate stand.

The Bavarians appear to have been surprised on the Saale. The Prussian march, previous to the battle of Kissingen, was so rapid that they did not expect an attack till the following day. In consequence, their whole force was not concentrated on the river. The troops which held Kissingen and Hammelburg were unsupported, while those which should have acted as their reserves were too far distant to be of any service. The latter, on the other hand, arrived so late that their comrades had already been defeated, and they themselves, instead of acting as reinforcements, met with only a similar fate to those first engaged. The Bavarian staff were unprepared. They had no maps of the country, except one which the chief of the staff, General Von der Tann, borrowed from a native of one of the small towns near the field.

CHAPTER III.

THE ACTIONS ON THE MAINE.

WHEN Prince Alexander of Hesse turned to retreat on the 5th July, he might still, by a rapid march along the road which leads from Lauterbach to Brückenau, have made an attempt to unite with the Bavarians before they were attacked at Kissingen by the Prussians. This course he appears, however, to have considered too hazardous. He retired to Frankfort, and on the 9th July concentrated his troops round that town. His first division was at Frankfort; the second in some villages north of the town, on the river Nidda; the third division at Bergen, and the fourth at Bockenheim. The reserve cavalry was towards Friedberg; the reserve artillery across the river, in Offenbach. The two banks of the Maine were connected by a bridge, which leads from Frankfort to Offenbach.

Frequent alarms made it evident how little steadfast confidence pervaded the Federal corps of Prince Alexander. The news of the victory won by the Prussians at Königgrätz was widely circulated through the ranks by the Frankfort journals. Every moment reports were rife that Prussian columns were advancing towards Frankfort from Wetzlar, or Giessen; and once an officer,

by spreading the alarm, caused a whole division to lose its night's rest, and to take up a position in order of battle.

At this time the eighth Federal corps was not practically fit to take the field. Such confusion reigned in the fortress of Mainz, that whole regiments marched into the town and took up quarters on their own account, without any report being made to the commandant. Newly appointed officers, surgeons, and hospital assistants, had to seek for their regiments without being able to obtain accurate intelligence of their whereabouts from any one. No firm union existed between the different divisions of the eighth corps. The corps had not been concentrated for twenty-four years, and the divisions were totally different in uniform, administration, and organization. The hussars of Hesse-Cassel were dressed and accoutred so similarly to Prussian cavalry, that the Austrians fired upon them at Aschaffenburg. The small arms were of different calibres. The four field batteries of the third division were equipped on four different systems.

The day after the victory of Kissingen, General Falckenstein could turn his attention against this heterogeneous mass without fear of any assault on his rear by the Bavarians. The latter retired in such haste, after the battle of Kissingen, towards the Maine, that Mantuffel's division, which was sent in pursuit, could not feel them. On the 11th July, General Falckenstein ordered Beyer's division to march by way of Hammelburg and Gelnhausen on Hanau. This it accomplished, without, as was anticipated, falling in with the Würtemberg division at Gelnhausen. The latter only held this

place till the 14th July, and then retired in great haste, without throwing any obstacle in the way of the advancing Prussians, either by breaking the bridges, or by any other means. The division of General Goeben was directed at the same time through the defile of the Spessart upon Aschaffenburg. Here the passes were not held nor barricaded. Notwithstanding the presence in this district of large numbers of foresters, no abattis or entanglements were placed across the road. None of the almost unassailable heights were occupied, either to prevent the direct progress of the Prussians, or to threaten their line of march in flank. The railway which was still serviceable was not used to convey the small number of riflemen and guns, which at Gemünden, as at many other points, would have thrown great difficulty in Goeben's way. Manteuffel's division followed Goeben's, and scoured the country in the direction of Würzburg.

Between Gemünden and Aschaffenburg, the river Maine makes a deep bend to the south. Into the bow thus formed, the mountainous region of the Spessart protrudes, through which the road and railway lead directly westward from Gemünden to the latter town. On the 13th July, the leading brigade of Goeben's division, that of Wrangel, was approaching Hayn, when a report came in from the squadron of hussars, which was clearing the way, that some of the enemy's cavalry and infantry were advancing towards that place from Laufach, a station on the railroad nearer to Frankfort than Hayn. It was soon discovered that these were troops of Hesse-Darmstadt. The fusilier battalion of the 55th regiment was pushed forward to gain the top of the defile, up which

the brigade was then moving. It advanced in columns of companies and, without difficulty, pushed back two hostile battalions which it encountered. The village of Laufach was taken, and the railway station occupied, while three battalions and a squadron were sent forward to seize a cutting beyond the station, and to relieve the fusiliers. The relief had not been fully carried out when the enemy, with eight or nine battalions and two batteries, assumed the offensive. The assailants mustered about eight thousand men. The battalion of the 55th threw itself into a churchyard surrounded by walls, and placed itself on the defensive. The village of Frohnhöfen in front was occupied by three companies, supported by six companies posted on the hills on the right, and seven on those on the left of the railway. The remaining troops of the brigade took up a position in front of the station, as a reserve. The enemy attacked all points ; so that, by degrees, nine companies had to be sent up to Frohnhöfen. The most severe attack was made on the right wing. General Wrangel was obliged to send his two remaining battalions and a battery to this point. All his available troops were now engaged, and the fight for some time was very even. At last, however, all the assaults of the Hessians were repulsed, and a counter attack made by three battalions and a squadron supported by the fire of a 12-pounder battery had great success. The Hessians drew off from all points towards Aschaffenburg, and left more than one hundred prisoners, as well as the greater portion of five hundred killed and wounded, in the hands of the victors. The latter also captured the majority of the knapsacks of

their assailants, who had taken them off at the beginning of the action, and on retreating left them lying on the ground. The advantage of the needle-gun in a defensive position, was well demonstrated at Laufach. Whole ranks of corpses of its enemies lay in front of the position, and until early morning wounded men were found. On the Prussian side the loss was very small, in all hardly twenty men, and one officer.

The Commander-in-chief of the eighth corps was this day uncertain whether he should defend Frankfort. His troops were in scattered positions, and instead of a large concentrated mass of troops, only small detachments were pushed out to meet the enemy. The division sent in haste to Frohnhöfen, only brought one of its four field batteries into action, and used only one or two squadrons of its whole cavalry to attack the Prussians. The two brigades of infantry came in haste without rations, and after one another under fire. There was no Commander-in-chief, the leader of each brigade acted for himself, and led his troops by the most direct road against the enemy with great valour, but with little judgment. The blame for all these errors is apparently due to General Von Perglas, the commander of the Darmstadt division, who allowed his troops to advance in closed masses unprotected by artillery against a wood in which the Prussians, well covered, had firmly planted themselves. The advantages of ground, disposition, and leading were all on the side of the Prussians, who gained their success, although very weary from a long march, without any exertions worthy of mention. They had quickly, but so skilfully availed themselves of each local

advantage and cover for the defence of their line by infantry and artillery fire, that all the reckless bravery of the Hessians had no other result than to inflict upon themselves very severe losses. Among these were a regimental commander, a major of the staff, and thirty killed or wounded company officers. After the action of the 13th July, Wrangel's brigade bivouacked at Laufach, with a strong advanced post of three battalions round Frohnhöfen.

On the 14th, at seven in the morning, the further march on Aschaffenburg was to commence. The care of the enemy's wounded on the previous day, the collection of scattered arms, and waiting for the return of the patrols which had been sent out at dawn, delayed the start for half an hour. The reports of the latter told that the enemy was retreating from Hösbach. A squadron of hussars was sent forward to occupy that village. The infantry of Wrangel's brigade followed along the main road with flankers pushed out far on the right and left. On the hill of Weiberhofen, Wrangel's brigade fell in with that of General Kummer, which had moved by a route on the south of the railway. A report soon was brought in that the enemy was advancing strong detachments from Hösbach. Colonel Von der Goltz, the commander of the vanguard, was immediately ordered to take up a position on the heights south of the main road, under cover of which the brigade formed for battle in the valley. General Kummer was ordered with his brigade to move along the railway towards Aschaffenburg. General Goeben was in command of the two united brigades. The advance guard had hardly formed when



a further report announced that the enemy was drawing back. General Goeben then ordered a general advance. He moved Wrangel's brigade along the road, Kummer's on the railway embankment; at the same time he drew a hussar and cuirassier regiment from the reserve, and covered his right flank by moving them through the open fields on the south of the road. Hösbach was found unoccupied by the enemy, as was also Goldbach. On the further side of the latter village the infantry fire opened. The 15th and 55th Prussian regiments pushed forward to the wooded bank of the Laufach stream. The Federal troops here consisted of the Austrian division under General Count Neipperg, formed of troops which had originally garrisoned Mainz, Rastadt, and Frankfort. There were also some of the Hesse-Darmstadt troops here. The infantry fire of the Federal soldiers caused the Prussians little loss; but an Austrian battery, posted on a hill south of Aschaffenburg, and admirably served, annoyed them much. The Prussian artillery could find no favourable position from which to attack this battery with clear advantage, and the Austrian guns for some time had the best of the action. At last three battalions of the 15th Prussian regiment were pushed along the stream nearer to the village of Daurm, and made themselves masters of a hill on which stood a tower surrounded by a wall. Protected by this, the infantry succeeded by its musketry fire in forcing the enemy's artillery to retire. The advance of some Federal cavalry was also stopped by the same means before the squadrons could attack. As soon as the Austrian battery drew back, a general advance was made against Aschaffenburg, which is sur-

rounded with a high wall that offered the Austrians cover and a convenient opportunity for defence. The Prussian artillery coming into action on the top of a hill soon showed itself superior to that of the Austrians. After long firing in the environs of the town, and the gardens which lay in front of the walls, the Prussians advanced to storm, and although they were received with repeated salvos, forced their enemy out of his strong position without suffering very severe loss. At the railway station there was a sharp combat, but at no other point was the resistance very determined. The town of Aschaffenburg has only two gates. In consequence, as the retreating Austrians were hurrying towards the bridge over the Main a block occurred. The Prussians pushing forward, entered the city with the rearmost ranks of the enemy, and made two thousand prisoners. These were for the most part Italians, who defended themselves without much energy. General Goeben occupied the bridge by which the railway to Darmstadt crosses the Main, with three battalions, two squadrons, and a battery. These pushed reconnaissances towards Frankfort. The rest of his troops he cantoned in the town of Aschaffenburg.

The losses of the Prussians in the capture of the town were not severe. Those of the Federal troops were considerable; as there were many killed and wounded, besides the large number of prisoners. A large quantity of material of war fell also into the hands of the conquerors. A regiment of hussars of Hesse-Cassel, which Prince Alexander had attached to his Austrian division, lost five officers and one hundred and eight non-commis-

sioned officers and men, in its attempt to cover the retreat of the infantry through the streets.

While General Goeben advanced towards Aschaffenburg, and gained there the passage of the Maine, General Beyer's division pushed towards Frankfort, by way of Gelnhausen. The easily defensible passage of the Kinzig, near this town, was found unoccupied by the Federal troops, and on the 17th, Beyer reached the neighbourhood of Hanau without ever having seen an enemy.

During the action of Aschaffenburg, Prince Alexander, instead of supporting his Austrian division, which was engaged there, remained with the mass of his troops inactive at Seiligenstadt. Yet he could by vigorous action have been much superior in numbers to Goeben at the former town, have saved the passage of the river, and perhaps pushing Goeben and Manteuffel backwards, by bearing on their right, have urged them into the bend of the Maine, and severed them from Beyer and their line of communication with the north. This page of the history of the campaign of the leader of the Federal corps is but a repetition of the perpetual tale of opportunities lost and advantages neglected. The advantage of positions was always on the side of the Federal corps, yet these advantages were sacrificed, always with loss to the Federal side, to which the casualties in the Prussian ranks by no means corresponded. The lives of soldiers were to all appearance trifled away and wasted, by strategical ignorance and absence of energy on the part of their leader.

The immediate result of the victorious advance of the Prussian army of the Maine was the evacuation of

Frankfort and the line of the Maine, by the eighth Federal corps, and its occupation by the Prussians. On the 16th July, General Falckenstein entered the town at the head of Goeben's division, and was able to report to the King that all the lands north of the Maine were in Prussian possession. General Falckenstein had within fourteen days defeated two armies, of which each was as strong as his own, in two great, and several minor actions; and, in a country by no means very advantageous for the offensive, had manœuvred so as to separate his two adversaries, who on the 5th July were within thirty miles of each other, by a distance of sixty miles.

The following is a summary of the operations north of the Maine :—

Bavarians.—From the 15th to 25th June, halted near Schweinfurt. In the meantime the Hanoverians were surrounded, and obliged to capitulate.

On the 25th June they made various movements, with the object of effecting a junction with the eighth Federal corps.

On the 12th July they again returned to Schweinfurt, after having been pushed away from their allies by Falckenstein, at Wiesenthal and Kissingen.

The Eighth Federal Corps.—From the 15th June to the 12th July occupied strategical positions round Frankfort.

On the 5th July it made a partial march on Fulda. Some of its cavalry fell in with some Prussian patrols, and it retreated rapidly to the Maine.

On the 13th and 14th July, the actions of Laufach and Aschaffenburg were fought, while Prince Alexander lay at Seiligenstadt.

On the 14th July Prince Alexander concentrated rearwards, on the south of the Maine.

On the 13th July, when the Prussian army was at each, not more than thirty miles from Frankfort, the residuary members of the mutilated Germanic Diet retired from the ancient city on the Maine, where of old the rulers of the Holy Roman Empire were elected and crowned. Their business had, since the outbreak of hostilities, been chiefly confined to making protests against Prussia. The days when the Confederation could enforce its decrees were, however, past, and the Diet had found a very different patient of Federal execution from the Dane. Its protests were now all spent shot. A few of the deputies, however, still held together, and styled themselves, in diplomatic language, the Diet and Confederation of Germany.

These, on the 13th July, quitted Frankfort with the documents from the Archives of the Bund, and journeyed to Augsburg, where the black, red and gold flag of the Germanic Confederation was hoisted over the inn of the sign of the Three Moors.

The last Bavarian battalion left Frankfort on the 14th, and the head-quarters of the eighth Federal corps were established that night at Dieburg, a station on the railway between Aschaffenburg and Darmstadt.

On the 15th, Prince Alexander drew near to the south, and concentrated his corps on the Odenwald. This day his light cavalry opened communications with Prince Charles's corps at Würzburg, by the left bank of the Maine, and the road through Moltenberg and Werbek.

On the 15th, the Senate of Frankfort published a pro-

clamation to the inhabitants, in which it was announced that the Diet which usually held its sittings in the free city, had temporarily withdrawn; that the city would act as an open town, and that there appeared to be no danger of any injury to the lives or property of any of the inhabitants. The construction of earthworks, which had been commenced by the Federal troops, was abandoned, and all was prepared for the advent of the Prussian conquerors. At Darmstadt the Russian flag was hoisted on the palace of the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, who in person started for Munich.

Wrangel's brigade, after the capture of Aschaffenburg, was pushed forward by forced marches to Hanau. About five o'clock on the evening of the 16th July, the first Prussians arrived near Frankfort, brought in a train from Aschaffenburg. They got out of the carriages a short distance from the city gates, and took up a position on the Hanau road. This advanced guard consisted of a regiment of cuirassiers and a regiment of hussars. At seven a patrol of the hussars, led by an officer, halted before the city gate. In another quarter of an hour the head of the vanguard, consisting of one squadron of cuirassiers and the remaining hussars, passed in. The populace were for the most part sullenly silent. A few insulting cries to the Prussians were occasionally heard from some of the windows, but the soldiers took no notice of them. In a few minutes the Generals Vogel von Falckenstein, Goeben, Wrangel, and Tresckaw, surrounded by the officers of the staff, rode in at the head of the main body. The bands of the regiments played Prussian national airs. Before ten o'clock the whole line

of march had entered. The telegraph and post-offices were occupied. The railway station was garrisoned, and guards established over all the principal buildings. The free town of Frankfort was virtually annexed to the Prussian monarchy.

On the 17th July, the remainder of Falckenstein's troops entered the town, and some troops were pushed forwards south of the city, who captured a Hessian bridge train.

General Vogel von Falckenstein established his headquarters in Frankfort, and published a proclamation in which he announced that he had assumed temporarily the government of the duchy of Nassau, the town and territory of Frankfort, and the portions of Bavaria and Hesse-Darmstadt, which his troops had occupied. The civil functionaries of these districts were retained in their posts, but were directed to receive no order except from the Prussian Commander-in-chief. Several of the Frankfort papers which had always been distinguished for strong anti-Prussian feeling were suppressed. The eleven armed unions¹ which had existed in the city, were abolished; and the functions of the senate and college of burghers established by a general order. Six millions of gulden² were demanded from the town as a war contribution, and after much grumbling paid by the citizens. When, afterwards, on the 20th July, a second additional contribution of twenty millions of gulden³ was demanded, an universal cry of indignation and horror was raised. In the meantime, General Von Roeder had been appointed Governor of the town, to

¹ Vereine.

² £600,000.

³ £2,000,000.

whom the Burgomaster represented, on the 23rd July, that the town had already furnished six millions of gulden, and about two millions of rations, and requested to appeal against the subsequent contribution to the King of Prussia. So much did this misfortune of his city weigh on the Burgomaster that the same night he committed suicide. The town sent a deputation to Berlin which treated so effectually, and was so powerfully supported by the opinions of the foreign press, that the contribution was not insisted upon by the King. Frankfort shortly afterwards was united definitely to Prussia, when the first contribution of six millions was not actually returned to the citizens, but was retained by the Government to be expended in public works for the benefit of the city.

General Falckenstein, at Frankfort, issued the following general order to his troops :—

“SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY OF THE MAINE!—On the 14th of this month, at Aschaffenburg, we have fulfilled the second portion of our task. On that day the right bank of the Maine, as far as our arms reached, was cleared of the enemy. Before we advance to new deeds, it behoves me to express to you all my recognition of the manner in which you have made the numerous exertions necessary for our success. Yet it is not that alone which I have to praise. It is your valour, and the energy with which, in six great and several smaller actions, you have hurled yourselves upon the enemy, knitted victory to your banners, and made thousands of your adversaries prisoners. You defeated the Bavarians in two brilliant engagements at Wiesenthal, and Zella on the 4th of this month, crossed the Rhön mountains in order again to spring upon the Bavarian Army at the four different points of Hammelburg, Kissingen, Hausen, and Waldaschach : everywhere you were victorious. So soon as the third day after the bloody storming of Kissingen, the same division had crossed to the Spessart to engage the eighth Federal corps. The victory of the thirteenth

division over the division of Darmstadt at Laufach, and the capture of Aschaffenburg from the united Federal and Austrian troops on the 14th, were the earnings of its bravery and its toils. On the 16th Frankfort was occupied by it. I must express to this division my especial thanks. Fortunate to be generally at the head of the corps, and so the first to come into collision with the enemy, it showed itself as worthy of this honourable post, as did the intelligence and energy of its leader to take advantage of his opportunities.

"HEAD-QUARTERS,
"Frankfort, 14th July, 1866.

"VON FALCKENSTEIN,
*Commander-in-chief of the Army
of the Maine."*

CHAPTER IV.

THE CAMPAIGN SOUTH OF THE MAINE.

THE day that General Von Falckenstein published his general order to the troops, the Army of the Maine lost its commander. The difficult state of affairs in Bohemia, caused by the animosities of political parties, which, till the Prussian invasion, had been kept down by the strong hand of the Austrian Government, had, on the removal of that pressure, sprung forth into full life. The importance of the communications of the main Prussian armies with the provinces of Saxony and Silesia, and were threatened by the three fortresses of Theresienstadt, Josephstadt, and Königgrätz, led the King of Prussia to appoint General Falckenstein as military Governor-General of that province.

Lieutenant-General Von Manteuffel assumed the command of the Army of the Maine in Falckenstein's place. The division which General Manteuffel had commanded was placed under General Flies. On the 18th July Wiesbaden was occupied by the Prussians; and on the 20th Kummer's brigade was pushed southwards as an advanced guard and entered Darmstadt, but the main body of the army halted at Frankfort until the 21st. While he waited at Frankfort General Manteuffel re-

ceived reinforcements. These consisted of three battalions, three squadrons, and two batteries of Oldenburg, two battalions of Hamburg, one of Lübeck, one of Waldeck, which was detached to watch the fortress of Mainz, one of Bremen, one of Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen. Besides these contingents of the allies of Prussia, he also received five fourth battalions of Prussian troops, which remained as the garrison of Frankfort, the ninth Jäger battalion, and three reserve regiments of Landwehr cavalry,—in all fifteen battalions, twelve squadrons, and twelve guns, which mustered over twelve thousand combatants. Of these, five thousand men were left to hold the line of the Maine at Frankfort, Hanau, and Aschaffenburg. The remainder raised the active army to a strength of sixty thousand combatants.

At the same time a second reserve corps was formed at Leipzig and placed under the command of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. It consisted of the division of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, which numbered four battalions of infantry, one battalion of Jägers, four squadrons, and two 6-pounder batteries, and of a combined Prussian division, which was placed under the command of General Horne, who had formerly commanded the eighth division of the army of Prince Frederick Charles. Horne's combined division consisted of the fourth regiment of the Prussian Guard, the fourth battalions of five regiments of the line, two battalions of Anhalt, two regiments of Landwehr cavalry, and eight batteries. This second reserve corps mustered in all about twenty-three thousand combatants. It was intended to enter Bavaria by way of Hof, and either

to act against the rear of the united Bavarian and Federal corps, while engaged with General Manteuffel, or to force the Bavarian army to form front towards the east, and prevent Prince Charles of Bavaria from acting in concert with Prince Alexander against Manteuffel.

By the 21st July, the railway from Frankfort to Cassel had been repaired by the railway detachment of the Army of the Maine, and was available throughout its whole length, not only for military transport, but also for private traffic. On that day, the main body of the Army of the Maine quitted Frankfort, and moved towards the south. Beyer's division at the same time advanced from Hanau by Aschaffenburg to the south. The Bavarians had not occupied the road from Würzburg to the passage of the Maine at Heidenfeld. The eighth Federal Corps was reported to be in retreat through the Odenwalde, by Höchst and Moltenberg. Further information told that the Bavarians were concentrated, and in position near Würzburg. It then appeared probable that part of the eighth Federal corps intended to hold the defiles of the Odenwald, and the line of the Neckar, while the remainder of its troops joined the Bavarians near the Tauber. To take advantage of two roads, in order to move quickly, and if possible to press upon Prince Alexander before he was firmly linked with the Bavarians, and to shield his right flank against any detachments lurking in the Odenwald, General Manteuffel moved Goeben's division by Darmstadt on König, while Flies and Beyer pushed up the valley of the Maine by Wurth. At the same time he sent a strong reconnaissance up the right bank of the river against

Heidenfeld. Frankfort and Aschaffenburg were firmly occupied.

On the 23rd July, the Army of the Maine occupied a position near Moltenberg and Amorbach. Along its whole front it could firmly feel the eighth Federal corps. It was found that the enemy was in force on the Tauber, and that his advanced posts were pushed over the river, as far as Hundheim. On the 24th two actions took place on the Tauber, an affluent of the Maine, which falls into the latter stream below Wertheim. General Manteuffel moved against the Tauber in three columns. On the left Flies's division advanced on Wertheim. The two columns on the right were under General Goeben. Of these, that on the left consisted of the Oldenburg brigade and the battalion of Bremen, which moved upon Werbach against the division of Baden. That on the right, consisting of the remaining troops of Goeben's division, with Wrangel's brigade in front, marched on Tauberbischofsheim. Beyer's division was moved on Dermbach as the reserve. At Tauberbischofsheim the Würtemberg division, under General Hardegg was posted, to hold the place itself, and then issue from the valley on the road towards Würzburg, in case of an attack by the Prussians. The artillery fire of the advanced guard brigade of Goeben's divisions caused great loss among the defenders, and soon forced them to retire from the village. General Hardegg withdrew his troops, but endeavoured to hold the Prussians in the houses, and to prevent the advance of their batteries. By blowing up the bridge over the Tauber, he for a time prevented the progress of the Prussian artillery. After a hot combat,

which lasted three hours, the Würtembergers were relieved by the fourth division of the eighth Federal corps. The action increased in fury, but ultimately the Prussians gained the passage of the Tauber at Bischofsheim, and pushed their outposts a short distance along the road to Würzburg.

The action at Werbach afforded the brigade composed of the Oldenburgers and the battalion of Bremen, its first opportunity to display its efficiency. As soon as the Prussian advanced guard, which attacked Bischofsheim, met with opposition, this brigade was pushed against Werbach. The enemy evacuated Hochhausen, which lies on the left bank of the river, without firing a shot, but set himself stolidly to oppose the passage of the stream at Werbach. The attacking troops had marched for twelve hours on the 23d July, and on the 24th had been moving from five o'clock in the morning until two in the afternoon. They found their opponents in a good position, from which they themselves were exposed to a heavy cannonade. The Oldenburg artillery opened, and with such a good effect, that it soon got the fire of the opposite batteries under. These did not make good practice: the loss they inflicted was most trivial. The infantry, which had been hidden behind some rising ground, and in a wood, then advanced to the attack of the village of Werbach, threading their way through the intricate vineyards which clothed the slope down to the Tauber. After a short time spent in skirmishing, the Oldenburgers rushed to the assault, part forcing their way over the barricades, part wading through the water of the stream, which rose breast high against them.

Their losses were heavy, but their rush successful. They carried the houses, and drove the defenders clean through the village, and themselves covered by the houses, commenced a murderous fire on the retreating columns. The combat at Werbach not only secured to General Manteuffel the passage of the stream at that point, but had a more important result. The division of Baden retreated so far after its failure here, that the position in which the Federal corps had determined to fight on the Tauber on the following day had to be evacuated.

At Wertheim, General Flies forced back the Hessians, whom he found posted there, and secured the passage of the Tauber at this point also.

The commander of the eighth Federal corps, when he perceived that he could no longer hold the line of the Tauber, fell back to Gersheim, a village half way between Tauberbischofsheim and Würzburg, and about seven miles from either place. Here he determined, on some wooded heights, to await the Prussians. In the meantime the Bavarian army, following the road from Würzburg to Aschaffenburg, closed towards the eighth corps, and taking post on the north at Helmstadt, and Utingen, formed with it a long line of battle, in rear of which lay Würzburg and the Maine.

General Manteuffel was obliged to attack the allied corps in this position, although they were numerically much superior to him. He formed the intention of strengthening his right, and pivoting himself on Wertheim, to act with vigour against the allied left. He hoped thus to push his adversaries off the road to Würzburg, and to force them into the elbow which

the Maine forms north of that place. There cut off from their communications, and with the river in their rear, they would have had almost no resource except that of capitulating.

On the 25th, the Prussian Commander-in-chief drew forward Beyer's division, which had hitherto remained in reserve in rear of his left wing, and placed it between those of Goeben and Flies. The Army of the Maine now formed a line of battle about ten miles long, but only Goeben and Beyer were to attack on the 25th. Flies was to hold himself at Wertheim as the pivot of the army. Goeben was to attack the eighth Federal corps; Beyer the Bavarians. General Kummer's brigade, on the 25th, marched as the advanced guard of Goeben's division. When that officer had passed a wood lying a short distance in front of Gersheim, he made out the enemy—Württembergers, Nassauers, and Austrians drawn up on the north of the road, in order of battle. Their superiority in artillery was very considerable; they had eight batteries, six regiments of cavalry, and about seventy thousand infantry, while Kummer had only six battalions, four squadrons, and two batteries. Wrangel's brigade had marched towards the right, in order to act against the enemy's left flank. The Oldenburg brigade, with the reserve, were behind, but at so great a distance that their arrival on the ground could not be calculated upon for an hour. Nevertheless General Kummer determined at once to attack. His two batteries came into position, some infantry occupied the wood beside him, the rest of the foot soldiers and the cavalry formed in order of battle, and his artillery opened fire. The enemy

replied from forty pieces, and after a cannonade which lasted three-quarters of an hour, compelled the Prussian guns to retire. Prince Alexander of Hesse immediately sent some infantry against the wood, but the Prussians held the trees firmly, and from the cover slaughtered their assailants with their quickly-loaded arm. At this time the Oldenburg brigade and the reserve came up, and Wrangel was seen advancing against the enemy's left. The artillery fire of the allies told little on the Prussian troops, and caused but slight loss in proportion to the number of guns engaged. Wrangel's appearance on his left, and Kummer's steady hold of the wood, made the enemy begin slowly to retire. The Oldenburg artillery joined to Kummer's two batteries, fired heavily upon their slowly retreating columns. The allied batteries halting at every favourable spot, came into action, and it was not till nightfall that the cannonade ceased. By that time the Prussians had occupied and passed beyond Gersheim. On the same day, Beyer advanced against the Bavarians, who were in position near Helmstadt, by way of Bottingheim and Neubrunn. In front of Bottingheim he fell in with some cavalry patrols. At Neubrunn some infantry made its appearance. This was the advanced guard of the Bavarian main body, which was about to advance against Werbach. This infantry Beyer attacked sharply, and drove back towards Helmstadt. In rear of Neubrunn the retiring Bavarians were reinforced, and halted in a swelling plateau, much dotted over with plantations. The battle now began in earnest. The Prussian advanced guard moving towards Mädelhofen found an unoccupied plantation on the Bavarian left. Pivoted on

this it wheeled up to its left, and moved against Helmstadt. At the same time Beyer's main body moved straight upon that village. The Bavarians could not maintain themselves in that place, but their artillery, which drew off towards Utingen, took up a position beyond Helmstadt, from which their guns rained a hot fire of shells upon the heads of the Prussian columns. The Prussian artillery, covered by numerous skirmishers in the plantations, engaged the Bavarian guns. About three hours after the beginning of the fight the enemy's artillery drew off to Utingen, and so left the road to Mädelhofen, the most direct route to Würzburg open to Beyer's left wing. The Prussian division then made a concentrated attack against a wood near Mädelhofen, under cover of which heavy masses of Bavarian infantry were preparing for an attack towards Neubrunn. At the same time, Beyer's two regiments of cavalry dashed against the Bavarian horse, which in front of the wood were covering the formation. A severe hand to hand combat took place. The Bavarian horsemen were finally, however, overcome, and forced to quit the field. While the cavalry were engaged, some of the Prussian infantry pushed the Bavarian battalions back to Waldbrunn. The whole of Beyer's division then moved against the plantations near Mädelhofen and Waldbrunn, but the enemy drew off so quickly that Beyer concluded the action had terminated, and ordered his troops to bivouac. *

It was not so, however. Hardly had the Prussian regiments taken up their positions for the night, than an attack opened upon their left rear in the direction of Helmstadt. A part of the Bavarian army had, unper-

ceived, advanced in this direction from Utingen, and now opened a second action with a heavy cannonade. Beyer quickly changed his front left back, forming a reserve of the two regiments which had previously been upon his right. His artillery, as soon as it had taken up its new position, opened fire against the line of Bavarian guns, which was continually pushing more and more in the direction of Neubrunn, in order to outflank the Prussian position. This fire, however, did little towards silencing the Bavarian batteries. The Prussian reserve, which had a long distance to travel, was far from the left wing. Every moment the attack of the enemy's infantry might be expected. Matters seemed very critical. But the Bavarians did not attack. After a time his reserve reached Beyer's left. He then ordered a general advance, which was successful. Prince Charles of Bavaria was forced back to Roszbrunn, where he halted. General Beyer bivouacked near Helmstadt. Goeben's division halted for the night on the road between Gersheim and Würzburg, with its outposts at Kist. When Prince Charles's attack against Beyer, near Helmstadt, was developed, General Flies moved forward from Wertheim to support Beyer. He did not arrive on the field before the termination of the battle, but he took a position for the night at Utingen, and patrolled towards Roszbrunn.

This action cost the Prussians about three hundred and fifty officers and men, who were placed *hors de combat*. The Bavarians lost seventeen officers and two hundred and thirty-nine men killed and wounded, besides three hundred and sixty-three prisoners, who for the most part were wounded.

Prince Alexander, on the evening of the 25th, withdrew his corps to Würzburg, and took up a position under shelter of the fortress. Prince Charles appears to have received no information of this retreat, for on the morning of the 26th, he not only held his position at Roszbrunn, where his rear and his communication with Würzburg were already threatened by Goeben, but he also advanced against Utingen to attack Flies. He must in so doing have believed that the eighth Federal corps still covered his left, and held the road from Tauberbischofsheim to Würzburg.

As soon as the Bavarian attack on Flies was announced by their cannonade, Beyer detached some of his regiments to act against Prince Charles's flank. This attack, supported vigorously by a simultaneous advance of Flies against his front, forced the Bavarian commander to retire; not, however, without inflicting very severe injury on the Prussians.

Goeben, on the 26th, pushed his advanced guard towards Würzburg, and soon discovered by his patrols that Prince Charles, after leaving only a few light troops in front of the town, and a strong garrison in the houses on the left bank of the river, had drawn the mass of his troops across the Maine, and posted them in the town on the right bank, and in the citadel.

On the 28th, the Bavarian and the eighth Federal corps concentrated, and took up a position at Rottendorf, a village which lies in the angle of the Maine, five miles east of Würzburg. General Manteuffel that day drew his whole army together in front of Würzburg, with Goeben's division in advance, so that Kummer's brigade

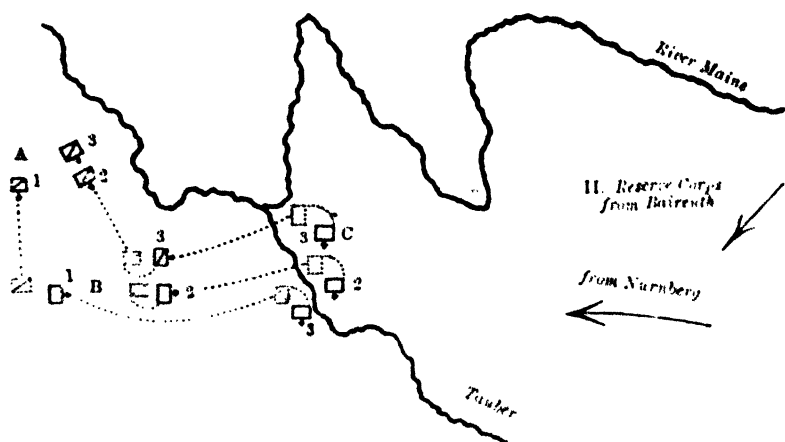
was opposite Marienberg, Wrangel's on its right, and the Oldenburg contingent on its left. Kummer pushed his skirmishers close up to Marienberg, and with them forced the enemy to quit some earthworks which they had begun to throw up. The whole artillery of the army of the Maine was then posted on the right and left of the road, and opened a cannonade on the houses, to which the enemy's guns actively replied. The arsenal and the castle of Marienberg were set on flames, after which the batteries ceased firing. The day after that cannonade a flag of truce was sent from the Bavarians to General Manteuffel, who announced that an armistice had been concluded between the King of Prussia and the Bavarian Government. The cessation of hostilities rescued the allied army from a very precarious position in the elbow of the Maine, where it was all but cut off from the territories which it had been intended to defend.

General Manteuffel had gained a free scope for action over the whole of Bavaria, Würtemberg, and Baden, because the river Maine was placed between those countries and the troops of Prince Charles. This general, to defend those countries, would have required to cross a swift river in face of a strong and already victorious enemy, no easy task for an army which had already lost confidence in its leader.

OBSERVATIONS.

The most interesting manœuvre of the Prussian Army of the Maine, after it had occupied Frankfort, was the movement by which General Manteuffel advanced

against the Tauber. The army marched southwards in the formation A. As soon as certain information was received that the enemy was on the Tauber, the division wheeled to the left, and stood opposed to the enemy in the formation B. The right wing (2), Flies' division, had then Goeben's division (1) as a



reserve, and could with great strength urge the enemy back towards the Maine, while Beyer's division at Wertheim prevented him from pushing out in that direction. As long as General Manteuffel could prevent the allies from marching up the Tauber he held an advantage over them, for the second reserve corps was coming down to Nürnberg against their rear. If the enemy did move up the Tauber in spite of his dispositions, General Manteuffel, by wheeling division C to the right, restored the order of march, in which he had advanced from Frankfort, for further operations.

It is difficult to perceive with what object Prince Charles, after the action on the Tauber, withdrew in

the direction of Würzburg, and afterwards took up a position in the bend of the Maine. He could hardly have wished here to fight a pitched battle, while General Manteuffel on one side of him, and the second Prussian reserve corps on the other, were not separated by more than sixty miles, and when he left the initiative of attack in the hands of his adversaries. Nor could he have the intention of conveying his troops by railway by way of Bamberg, Nürnberg, and Regensburg to Vienna. His road in that direction was threatened, and before he could have moved half his army, the remainder would have been waylaid by the second reserve corps.

The strength of the Bavarian and eighth Federal corps, which mustered together at least one hundred thousand men, was frittered away in isolated conflicts, instead of being concentrated for a great battle. Such conflicts could have had no important result, even if they had been successful. On the Tauber, the eighth corps fought alone, unsupported by the Bavarians. On the 25th, the whole right wing of the Bavarians came under fire, only in the evening, for the first time; and there was no harmony of either conduct or action between the Bavarians and the troops of the eighth corps. On the 26th, Prince Charles made an offensive movement without any support from Prince Alexander, and apparently without any idea that the latter had withdrawn to Würzburg.

CHAPTER V.

OCCUPATION OF FRANCONIA BY THE SECOND RESERVE CORPS.

ON the 18th July the Grand Duke Frederick Franz of Mecklenburg-Schwerin assumed the command of the second Prussian reserve corps at Leipzig. On the same day he ordered this corps to move upon Hof, in Bavaria. On the 23rd, the third battalion of the fourth regiment of the Guard crossed the Bavarian frontier, and captured a detachment of sixty-five Bavarian infantry. This battalion was pushed by forced marches from Leipzig to Werdau, thence by railway to Plauen. At the latter place wagons were raised by requisition from the country people, and the battalion conveyed in them by night to within two miles of Hof. Two companies rushed into the town, while the others, making a circuitous march, sought to gain the exit on the further side, and thus to surround and capture the whole of the Bavarian garrison. The greater part of these, however, made their escape by a railway train which happened to be ready, and an outlying detachment of sixty-five non-commissioned officers and men were alone taken prisoners.

On the 24th July, the head-quarters of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg reached Hof. Here he published a proclamation to the inhabitants of Upper Franconia, in which he informed them that his invasion of their country was only directed against their Government, and that private property and interests would be perfectly respected by his troops. In consequence, he was able to draw from the inhabitants the means of supplying his men with rations.

The head of the Prussian advanced guard reached on the 28th, the provincial capital Baireuth. The Bavarian garrison of this town had been withdrawn by telegraphic orders from Munich : and wisely so. Its numbers were far too small to have fought an action with any chance of success, and any resistance against the invaders could only have served to imperil the lives and property of the inhabitants. Nürnberg had also, from fear of the fate with which it was threatened, solicited the Bavarian Government to allow it to be declared an open town.

On the 29th July, the Grand Duke in person reached Baireuth, and there reviewed his troops. Bavaria, which had always aspired to a special consideration in the Germanic Confederation, because she claimed to be the leader of the Middle States, displayed no military force at all proportionate to her pretensions. No force worthy the name opposed this invasion of Franconia. One only of four brigades of reserve which were in course of formation, but, as yet, were hardly clothed in uniform, badly equipped and miserably organized, had been despatched from Munich towards the Saxon frontier. For any efficient protection of the country it was much too

weak, and the Landwehr, which had so much been vaunted by the Bavarian press, as a strong defensive organization, barely existed upon paper, and was practically of no account. The second reserve corps advanced unmolested, as if in time of profound peace, and was received by the people always with friendship, sometimes with tokens of lively sympathy. The Bavarian brigade of reserve retired to Kennath. A false telegraphic despatch, which announced that an armistice had been concluded between Prussia and Bavaria, led the reserve battalion of the regiment of the Bavarian guard to again advance, on the 28th, towards Baireuth. This advance was made without any precaution. As soon as it approached near the town it was told by the Prussian officer who commanded the advanced guard of the second reserve corps that the intelligence of an armistice was unfounded. It did not, however, by a forced march, attempt to withdraw itself beyond the reach of danger, but retired to St. Johann's, barely three miles from Baireuth, and there calmly took up its quarters for the night. As could hardly otherwise happen, it was there fallen upon, and fled during the night to Seidenburg, and on the 29th to Seibottenreuth. Here it was overtaken by the fusilier battalion of the 4th regiment of the Prussian Guard, which, in company with some Mecklenburg cavalry and Jägers, had been despatched from Baireuth in pursuit, and was totally routed. Of the nine hundred and fifty men, of whom the battalion had been composed, hardly five hundred succeeded in escaping from their pursuers, and, by the sacrifice of their knapsacks and many of their arms,

gaining a railway station between Seibottenreuth and Nürnberg. This was the only opportunity which the second reserve corps had of being engaged.

On the 31st July, the Prussian advanced guard moving forwards occupied the ancient city of Nürnberg, from which the dynasty of the Hohenzollerns was originally transferred to Brandenburg. On the 1st August, the main body reached the same place. Here the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg was only separated from Würzburg by a distance of sixty miles, and could insure his junction with General Manteuffel without any danger from the eighth Federal corps or the Bavarian army. Other reinforcements were also on the way to General Manteuffel, for on the 27th July the first Prussian reserve corps had been despatched from Bohemia, by way of Pilsen, into Bavaria, and had already occupied Weiden and Waldsassen. The armistice, however, which commenced on the 2d of August, and which had been granted by Manteuffel, on the 30th July, to Prince Alexander and Prince Charles, put an end to all further operations, and, in all probability, prevented both the army and the capital of Bavaria from falling into the hands of the Prussians.

The Prussian troops were everywhere victoriously pressing forward, and every day their enemies were more paralysed, and daily the total disruption of the Germanic Confederation became more complete.

On the 28th July, Baden received a new Ministry, which declared that, after the 31st July, the grand duchy would no longer consider itself as belonging to the late Confederation. The grand ducal representative

at the spectral phantom of the Diet was recalled, and the fortress of Rastadt was declared to belong to the Baden Government. The troops of Weimar, which formed its garrison, were dismissed to their homes.

On the 1st August, Heidelberg and Mannheim, Ludwigshofen, Mergentheim, and Erlangen, were occupied by Prussian detachments. The South-German Governments lost all hope, and sought by negotiations for an armistice. Lines of demarcation between the armies were agreed upon, and the war on the western theatre was finally put an end to by settled conventions.

Bavaria at first gained merely a purely military suspension of hostilities, but Herr Von der Pfordten, who had been despatched to the King of Prussia at Nikolsburg,¹ by the Bavarian Government, obtained one for three weeks, which was to date from the 28th July. Within that time peace was concluded at Berlin.

Before the definite conclusion of the armistice, the Prussian troops had occupied the Bavarian territory at three points, they had also crossed the frontiers of Baden and of Würtemberg. Darmstadt had long held a Prussian garrison. Würzburg, as one of the conditions of the suspension of hostilities, received a Prussian corps of four thousand men on the 2d August; the fortress on the Marienberg alone remained in the hands of the Bavarians. On the 1st August, General Von Manteuffel, at Würzburg, concluded an armistice with General Von Hardegg, for Würtemberg; on the same day he also concluded one for Hesse-Darmstadt, and on the 3d a plenipotentiary from Baden came to Würzburg, and there

¹ See page 196.

obtained one from Manteuffel for the Grand Duchy. The head-quarters of the Army of the Maine were established at Würzburg during the truce, where they remained until the 22d August.

The King of Prussia despatched, on the 1st August, the following telegram to the Army of the Maine, through General Manteuffel :

"I charge you to express to the troops of the Army of the Maine my entire satisfaction with their valour and behaviour. I thank the generals, the officers, and all the soldiery. With me the armies in Bohemia, Moravia, and Austria send to their Prussian and German comrades greeting and good-will."

At the same time the order of "*Pour le Mérite*" was sent by the King, with an autograph letter to the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg.

The end of the struggle was notified by General Von Manteuffel to his army, in the following general order :—

"HEAD QUARTERS, WÜRZBURG,
"August 2d, 1866.

"SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY OF THE MAINE!—By the victories of the arms of Prussia, the enemy has been compelled to seek for an armistice. His Majesty the King has granted it. I do not speak to you of the hardships which you have cheerfully suffered, nor of the bravery with which you have everywhere fought. But I recall to your memory the days of actions and the results of your victories. After that, under your skilful and esteemed leader, General Von Falkenstein, you had seized Hanover, Hesse-Cassel, and all the broad territories as far as Frankfort-on-the-Maine; had compelled the Hanoverian army to capitulate; had defeated the Bavarians on the 14th July at Zella and Weisenthal, on the 10th July at Hammelburg, Kissengen, Friederichshall, Hausen, and Waldaschach; on the 11th July the troops of Hesse-Darmstadt at Oerlenbach; on the 13th these again at Laufach, and on the 14th the Austrians at Aschaffenburg, you made your victorious entry into Frankfort. After a short rest, again you

sought the foe ; on the 23d you defeated the troops of Baden at Hundheim ; on the 24th, the Austrian, Würtemberg, Hesse-Darmstadt, and Nassau division at Tauberbischofsheim, and the troops of Baden at Werbach ; on the 25th, the whole concentrated eighth Federal Corps at Gersheim, and the Bavarians at Helmstadt, the latter on the 26th, also at Roszbrünn ; and to-day, after twenty victorious greater or minor combats, have entered Würzburg as conquerors. The result of those victories is that not only the countries north of the Maine have been won, but that the power of your arms has smitten heavily on Hesse-Darmstadt, and deep into Baden and Würtemberg, and has freed a portion of our land, which could not be directly protected by our army from the presence of an enemy. The Würtembergers had occupied Hohenzollern, and had driven away our officials. They must now quit that principality ; the black and white flag waves again over the town of Hohenzollern. I must express my thanks to the generals, commanders, officers, and to all the rank and file. I also thank the military surgeons for their unremitting and self-sacrificing care of the wounded, both under fire and in the hospital, as well as to the non-combatant departments for their successful administration of the army's supplies. Soldiers of the Army of the Maine ! I know that you are thankful to God, and I expect that during the armistice your recognised manliness and careful behaviour towards the inhabitants of the country will be worthy of the Prussian name."

The relies of the Diet quickly approached dissolution. On the 1st of August the small knot of diplomatists which at the hotel of the Three Moors, at Augsburg, still assumed the functions of that august body, were deserted by the ambassadors of England, France, Spain and Belgium ; while the Russian representative remained at Augsburg only on account of illness. The sitting of the 4th August acknowledged the end of the last shadow of the Germanic Confederation. Prince Charles of Bavaria reported the conclusion of an armistice with Prussia by the governments of Austria, Bavaria, Wür-

¹ The principalities of Hohenzollern.

temberg, and the Grand Duchy of Hesse; and reported at the same time, that he resigned the command-in-chief of the western Federal army, which had been bestowed on him by the decree of the Diet of the 27th June.

Brunswick had very tardily placed its troops on a war footing, but by the beginning of August they were attached to the second Prussian reserve corps. That State a short time previously declared its withdrawal from the Confederation.

The remaining members of the Diet annulled the protests which had been made against Prussia, and decreed that no obstacle should be offered to the North-German troops in the Federal fortresses in retiring to their homes.

On the 28th July, the troops of Saxe-Meinigen had already been permitted by the Governor of Mainz to leave that fortress, which, in virtue of the subsequent treaties of peace, was occupied by and given over entirely to Prussia on the 26th August.

This decree was the last act of the Diet of the Germanic Confederation, which was constructed after the fall of the first French Empire. By it, it practically published its own death warrant.

BOOK IX.

CHAPTER I.

PRUSSIAN ADVANCE FROM KÖNIGGRÄTZ TO BRÜNN.

FELDZEUGMEISTER Von Benedek had headed in person the troops with which he attempted to retake Chlum after the Prussian guards had possessed themselves of that village, and so turned the scale of the battle of Königgrätz. After his three attacks on the burning houses and the garrisoned churchyard had been repulsed, he saw that all was lost, and himself in vain attempted to find a soldier's grave on the field of battle, and with his blood to wash out the memory of his misfortune. The rapid advance of the whole Prussian army forced the Austrians speedily to retreat. During the night of the 3d of July, in great disorder, having but half of its artillery, with its staff separated and scattered, the defeated army pushed across the crowded bridges over the Elbe, and wearily dragged itself in the direction of Hohenmanth. Benedek himself retreated to Holitz, on the road to this place, and there on the morning of the 4th, made the best arrangement he could for the safety of his troops. Their losses in men, *matériel*, and guns rendered it impossible for him to think of any new dispositions until they were thoroughly re-organized. To

carry out such a re-organization he must seek a place of shelter, and the cover he desired was to be found under the guns, and behind the intrenchments of Olmütz. With the exception of the tenth corps, which had suffered most severely, and which he therefore despatched by railway directly to Vienna, he ordered the remainder of his army to move on the intrenched camp at Olmütz, while he left his first light cavalry division to watch the road from Pardubitz to Iglau, and his second to delay the enemy, if possible, on that from Pardubitz to Brünn.

On the 4th July he also sent Field Marshal Gablenz, one of the most able of the Austrian generals, to the Prussian head-quarters, in order to treat for a suspension of hostilities, as a preliminary to the conclusion of peace. This was a new proof of the desperate condition of the Austrian army. Gablenz reported himself on the 4th July at midday, at the outposts of the Crown Prince's army, and received permission to go to the King's head-quarters. He was blindfolded in passing through the army, as is the custom of war, and accompanied by a Prussian officer, was conducted to Hōritz. When he reached that town the King was absent, as he had gone to visit his troops on the field of battle. General Gablenz was taken to meet him, and fell in with the King between Sadowa and Chlum, who at first took him for a wounded Austrian general, and was about to condole with him, but being informed of his mission, ordered the bandage to be removed, and requested the Austrian general to return with him to Hōritz. Here Gablenz expressed Benedek's desire of an armistice, but no truce

could be granted, for Prussia and Italy were mutually bound to agree to no suspension of hostilities without a common agreement. General Gablenz returned unsuccessful to the Austrian head-quarters.

Equally unsuccessfully did the Austrian Government endeavour to make a separate peace with Italy. It determined, however, to leave only garrisons in the fortresses of the Venetian quadrilateral, and to transfer all the remaining troops of the Army of the South from the Mincio to the Danube, to shield its capital against its northern enemy.

The Prussian army the night of the battle of Königgrätz, bivouacked on the field. The following afternoon it began to move forward, to seize the passages over the Elbe. The Second Army on the left was directed upon Pardubitz. It left behind it the sixth corps d'armée to watch the fortresses of Josephstadt and Königgrätz. No siege against these places was undertaken. Yet the town of Königgrätz was nearly destroyed. On the 5th July, the day after the Prussian armies had marched from the vicinity of the fortress, the commander of the troops left to mask the place, opened a cannonade on the town from some of the Austrian guns, which had been captured in the battle. The shells burst among the dry houses, and the place would soon have been in flames had not a gun from one of the bastions opened with singular effect upon the Prussian gunners and compelled them to withdraw.

The army of Prince Frederick Charles, and that of Herwath, were both directed upon Przelautsch. At the same time the division of Landwehr of the Guard, which had followed in rear of the main armies, was

despatched to Prague, the capital of Bohemia. The Austrian garrison did not attempt to defend this town, and the Imperial lieutenant transferred the seat of the government of the province to Pilsen. The Prussian soldiery here found a very welcome booty in twenty-seven millions of cigars, which, as tobacco in Austria is a government monopoly, were confiscated for the benefit of the Prussian troops. On the 8th July, this division reached the ancient town on the Moldau, and hoisted the Prussian flag upon the Hradschin, the palace of the kings of Bohemia. On the 11th, General Mülbe took the command of the place, having moved the first Prussian reserve corps from Saxony into Bohemia.

The first division of the Landwehr of the Line remained in Saxony, to which later a newly-formed second division was added. The detachments made from the Prussian main armies for masking fortresses, and escorts of prisoners, as well as the losses in battle and from sickness, were replaced by a portion of eighty-one new battalions, which had been lately formed out of the troops left at the regimental depôts. The first line armies, when they moved from the Elbe, were of the same, or rather superior, strength to those which ten days before had crossed the Bohemian frontier.

In consequence of the battle of Königgrätz, Feldzeugmeister Benedek resigned the command of the Austrian Army of the North, and the Archduke Albrecht, the victor of Custozza, was appointed to the supreme command of the whole army. Until its arrival on the Danube, however, Benedek commanded the Army of the North. Count Clam Gallas had been ordered to give up his

command after Gitschin, and the chief of the staff, Field Marshal Baron Henikstein, had, before the 3d July, been ordered to cede his post to Major-General Paumgarten, who had hitherto commanded in Galicia. The latter reached the army the evening before the battle of Königgrätz, but did not interfere with the dispositions of his predecessor.

One feeling alone existed in the army of Benedek. He possessed the admiration of his officers, and the love of his men. This affection towards him only increased in the hour of his misfortune in the camp. But the populace of Vienna blindly raged against him, and failing to perceive the negligence and errors of the ministers and administrators who had sent the army into the field in its unprepared condition, inveighed in unmeasured terms against the unfortunate general who had commanded it.

On the evening of the 4th July, the armies broke up from the bivouac they had occupied near the field of battle of Königgrätz, and advanced towards the Elbe.

On the 5th, they crossed the river; the First Army, under Prince Frederick Charles, at Przelautsch; the Second, under the Crown Prince, at Pardubitz. The march was begun the previous evening. After going a short way the troops halted for the night, and slept by the side of the road. Early on the morning of the 5th they again set forward, and reached the Elbe late in the afternoon. The villages along the road had been mostly deserted, for the inhabitants had fled south with the retreating Austrian army. The houses looked desolate, with their doors and windows wide open, and shutters

flapping mournfully in the wind, while there still remained in the street in front vestiges of the hasty packing up of such articles as could be carried away. A stray dog or two were seen here and there, which still stood on the threshold and barked at the soldiers as they marched by; but even these were rare, and often the poultry had invaded the dwelling rooms, and were roosting among the furniture. For twenty-five miles the army marched through a luxuriantly fertile country, but almost entirely deserted; sometimes one or two peasants stood by the side of the road staring vacantly at the passing troops, or a few women might be found in a village who, half frightened by the sight of the soldiers, supplied them with the drinking water which they everywhere requested. But the people had no cause to fear; they would have done better to remain, for some of the troops had to be billeted in the houses along the road, and when the inhabitants were not present, the soldiers took what they required, and there was no one to receive payment for what they consumed. The children did not seem so timid; they were present along the roads in large numbers, for the cherries were just ripening, and they took advantage of the panic among their elders to make a raid on the trees which grew in long strips by the side of the way. With them the soldiers soon became great friends. The boys ran along the battalions with their caps full of the fruit, and got coppers in exchange for handfuls of it; the sellers, exulting in the pocketsful of coin they soon collected, seemed to have no scruples as to whose property it rightfully was, but laughed with delight at this unexpected result of the war.

But for the most part the country in front of the army was still and silent. No church clocks sounded, for their guardians had fled. There was no one to wind them up, and the hands stood motionless on the dials. No horses neighed, for they had all been taken to carry away the flying inhabitants, or perhaps to aid in dragging off the retreating Austrian guns. The flowers before the wayside shrines of the Madonna were dried up and withered, for the votaries who were wont to renew them had fled, fearful of the invading army. The cattle had been driven away, and the pastures were vacant. Broad belts of corn, trodden flat to the ground, showed the lines along which the Austrian battalions had hurried, and here and there lay a knapsack or ammunition pouch which some fatigued fugitive had cast away as an impediment to his flight.

But where the army marched all was bustle and noise : the infantry tramped monotonously along the roads, while the cavalry spread in bending lines through the fields, and behind the combatants toiled long trains of wagons, which carried the stores of this large army. Along every road and every lane foot soldiers marched, and cavalry occupied the intervals between the heads of the columns—all pointing southwards, towards the Elbe. For miles on either side could be seen the clouds of dust raised by the marching troops ; in some places it rose from trees and woods, in others from among houses, or from the hard straight roads leading through the wide corn land, where the hot July sun poured its rays straight down upon the soldiers' heads and made them suffer much from heat and thirst.

As the foremost troops neared the Elbe all ears listened

eagerly for the sound of cannon, for it was thought that if the Austrians could bring their troops under fire again they would oppose the passage of the river, and whether they did so or not would be accepted as a criterion of how much they had suffered by the defeat at Königgrätz. The heads of the columns steadily advanced nearer and nearer to the line of willows which marked the course of the stream. No cannon sounded, no rifle even was discharged, and it seemed that the advanced guard must have passed unopposed. At last the news came back that the passage was secured, and that there were no signs of the enemy on the opposite bank. Soon the troops closed down to the river and filed across the wooden bridge which, with four arches, spans the muddy stream ; and the black and yellow stripes on its parapets were the only visible signs that the Prussian army was in the dominions of the Emperor of Austria.

Prince Frederick Charles occupied Przelautsch about six on the evening of the 5th, and almost at the same time the Crown Prince entered Pardubitz. The line of the Elbe was now secured as a basis for future operations, and the Austrian railway communication between Vienna and Prague was cut. At the latter town there were said to be only four Austrian battalions, and it was expected to be evacuated by them and occupied by the Prussians within a few days.

As was the case. Then, notwithstanding the fortresses of Königstein in Saxony, and Josephstadt, Königgrätz, and Theresienstadt in Bohemia, the Prussian armies obtained railway communication from Pardubitz and Przelautsch by way of Prague and Reichenberg with

their own country, which was of great importance to them in their further advance.

The towns of Przelautsch and Pardubitz were entirely filled with Prussian soldiers. On every door was written in chalk the name of the regiment and company to which the house was allotted, and the number of men which it was to accommodate. The numbers appeared enormous for the size of the house, fifty or sixty men were sometimes billeted in a small house with four rooms, but the soldiers managed well enough so long as they could get straw to lie upon ; but here there was a great scarcity of that, and the men had to sleep as they could, on the floors or in the gardens. The greatest difficulty prevailed in getting any accommodation for horses ; all the stables were occupied by the horses of generals, and inferior officers would fain have had sheds, cowhouses, or any place with a cover, for the weather looked lowering, and it seemed that it would probably rain, but all the sheds were occupied by the troops, and most of the horses had to spend the night in the streets.

But there were advantages here which compensated for more than a little overcrowding. Large Austrian stores of bread, beer and cigars had been found, and the soldiers were delighted to think that they would again have their rations of tobacco served out to them, which they had not had since they left Saxony ; for to a German soldier tobacco is almost as necessary as meat, but transport had not been found for tobacco with the army, as there had been lately a difficulty in bringing up even food.

The head-quarters of the armies halted on the 6th July in the same position as they took up the previous

evening. The First Army at Przelautsch. The Crown Prince with the Second Army was at Pardubitz, whither the King himself went the same evening. Detachments were pushed along the railway towards Prague. On the morning of the 6th, an advanced guard was pushed out to feel the country south of the Elbe. It consisted of light cavalry, horse artillery, and some infantry. The Weissenfels Hussars led the way, followed by the Hussars of Ziethen, and the 3d Dragoons, whose squadrons were very weak, for their ranks had been terribly thinned by the battle of Königgrätz. As soon as the columns got out of the town the Hussars spread themselves out over the fields by the side of the road, and studded the country with horsemen. Some went pushing through the corn, others galloped forward to gain every piece of rising ground, and from the summit to scan the country beyond. Every wood was carefully beaten, and every village inspected by the nimble horsemen before the main body approached, for Austrian marksmen might be lurking among the trees, or cavalry might lie in ambush behind the houses. But no signs of an enemy could be found ; and, although at every moment they expected to hear the sharp crack of a rifle and the puff of blue smoke which would tell that an outlying post had been disturbed, they pursued their way unmolested, and it was evident that the Austrians had retreated far south or east.

But, though the head-quarters halted at Przelautsch and Pardubitz, the 6th was a busy day there. All the sickly and weak were draughted out of the ranks, and were sentenced to be left behind—a sure sign that long

and severe marches were expected, and that it was intended that the army should move free of all possible encumbrance. In vain did those who were selected to be left behind protest that they were the strongest men in the regiment, and call upon their comrades to bear witness to their marching powers. The doctors were good-naturedly obdurate,² and the men selected had to bear the disappointment of not going forward with the army, being solaced with the assurance that they should rejoin as soon as possible. Those destined to be left behind were far from numerous—indeed, their number was surprisingly small, for the army had been making long marches and bivouacking out nearly every night in most changeable weather.

Although the Austrians had been obliged to leave the railway, they had taken care to make it of as little use as possible to its subsequent possessors. All the engines and carriages had been sent away, and until Prague was occupied none could be brought by the Prussians to supply their place. So the line stood idle, and the station had a desolate look, made only more remarkable by the one or two officials of the indefatigable telegraph corps, who had occupied one of the rooms, and were at their work there early that morning flashing despatches and reports to the King's staff, and receiving rapid answers which were to direct the marches of the troops.

A number of Austrian baggage wagons had after Königgrätz fallen into the hands of the conquerors, and, after being employed in helping to carry the wounded from the field on the 6th, joined in the long lines of

carriages which followed the Prussian armies. They were easily distinguished in the line of march by their light yellow colour, which contrasted strongly with the dark blue with which all the Prussian military carriages are painted. Every hour showed how much more severely the Austrians had felt their defeat at Königgrätz than was at first supposed in the Prussian army. The unopposed passage of the Elbe, the mission of Marshal Gablenz, the abandonment of the country south of Przelautsch, were successive proofs of the completeness of the Prussian victory. The *morale* of the army had now risen high, and the soldiers were convinced that the Austrian troops could not stand against them—a feeling which was no contemptible augury of future victories. But, though the soldiers were confident in themselves, their arms, and their leaders, their confidence never stepped beyond just bounds; they were tender and kind to the wounded and prisoners, not only by attending to their wants, but by showing them much consideration, and never exulting over the victory in their presence, which could hardly be expected from men serving in the ranks. But the Prussian system of recruiting enlists in the army as private men of high education and refined feelings, and these easily influence their comrades, who are naturally warm-hearted, to act kindly and charitably to the unfortunate.

On the 7th July the Prussian armies advanced from the Elbe. The Crown Prince moved from Pardubitz along the railway towards Brandeis, with the object of pushing towards Olmütz. Prince Frederick Charles, leaning slightly in the same direction, made for the road

which leads from Pardubitz by Chrudim to Brünn. On the 7th he reached Hermanmestetz. The army of the Elbe marched on the road which leads from Przelautsch to Iglau and Znaym.

The march of the 7th was very different from that of the 5th. The panic among the country people caused by the defeat of the Austrians at the battle of Königgrätz did not extend into the country lying south of the Elbe, and here the inhabitants had not left their houses. All was busy and full of life, peasants were working in the fields, women and children were abundant in the villages, and the soldiers, who seemed to be supplied plentifully with money by their friends at home, for their pay is small, bought eggs, butter, milk, and poultry as they passed along, but in many cases they had little return for their money, for eggs are difficult to carry in crowded ranks, and butter is inclined to melt when stowed away in a knapsack, so that many found when they reached the halting place that their prudence in providing themselves with eatables was vain, and that they were disappointed of the luxuries they had meant to enjoy with their mid-day meal.

The march was little on the high road, but chiefly by country lanes, over ground covered with short, crisp grass, past water-mills sunk in the hollows by little streams, and through villages whose wide open greens covered with geese and ducks reminded one of England. From the top of every rise the country before the army could be seen stretching away in a wide rolling plain, and bounded by the dark blue line of mountains which, thirty miles distant, separates Bohemia from Moravia.

The corn was rapidly ripening; but the day was cool, yet without rain, and the troops, marching easily, did not care to avail themselves of the water along the road, which was abundant, and which would have been so grateful on many former marches.

The town of Hermanmestetz is thoroughly Bohemian; few of even the better class of inhabitants could speak German. The signboards of the shops and inns were written only in Bohemian, and not in German also, as is generally the case further north. As soon as the troops marched in and were dismissed from their parades, a rush was made at the shops. The soldiers crowded in at the doors and up to the counters, calling loudly for tobacco and cigars. These were not to be had in any quantity, but coffee was plentiful at first, though the whole in the town was soon bought. Then arose difficulties about money, for the soldiers did not yet thoroughly understand the Austrian coinage, and the shopkeepers tried to take the utmost advantage of their ignorance; but the men protested loudly against flagrant cases of imposition, and, amid a great deal of noise and loud talking, the bargains were concluded generally considerably to the advantage of the dealer.

Every taproom was filled by an importunate crowd eager for food, beer, and wine; knapsacks were piled on the benches, rifles stood thickly in the corners, and their owners pressed round the bar, each trying by dint of noise to secure the services of the landlord for himself. But though they were hungry and thirsty, the soldiers were always good-humoured. Differences of opinion often arose as to the comparative value of kreutzers and

silber groschen ; but when the dispute ran high the landlord called in the assistance of his wife, and then almost invariably the soldier had to retire worsted from the contest, exposing discontentedly to his comrades the small handful of little coins he had received in change for a dollar. As soon as it became dark all noise ceased and all bustle was stilled. The men disappeared to go to sleep. Some lay in the houses on straw, others in sheds, many in the gardens, for the house accommodation was not sufficient for them, and many seemed wisely to prefer the summer air to a crowded room. Thus the town, before so noisy, grew perfectly still, and no sound was heard except the monotonous step of a sentry or the uneasy neigh of some restive horse ; but the arms piled, with the bayonets fixed, beside each house, with the knapsacks laid close to the butts packed and ready to be instantly taken up, told that the soldiers were ready, and that the least alarm would fill the streets with armed men ready to march.

The King came to Pardubitz on the morning of the 7th, held a meeting of the principal generals, and probably the future plan of the campaign was then discussed. It was still uncertain whether the two armies were making for the line of railway which runs by Brünn to Vienna, or whether they were moving towards Olmütz.

The King remained on the 8th at Pardubitz, where it was determined that the Second Army should move against Olmütz with the first corps d'armée and the cavalry corps leading. This advanced guard was if possible to feel the enemy, and discover what amount of his army Benedek still held in the entrenched camp and

what troops he had sent to the south. A serious attack on the fortress was not, however, contemplated. Any retreat of the Second Army, which might become necessary, was to be made, not in the direction of the First Army, but on the county of Glatz, with which the Second Army now formed a line of communication. The First and Second Armies, on the 8th, moved forwards in a south-easterly direction; the Crown Prince, with the Second Army, marched that morning in the direction of Märisch Trübau, and halted for the night somewhere short of that town. The First Army, under Prince Frederick Charles, was that evening scattered round Chrast; the 8th division, under General Horne, was in the town itself, the main body along the road towards Märisch Trübau; the 7th was a little to the south at Zumberg;¹ the 6th at Kamenitz, a village still further to the south; and the cavalry, marching by roads more to the southwards still, covered the right flank of the army. General Herwarth von Bittenfeld, with his corps, was moving on Iglau. Eight battalions had been detached to Prague, and that town was occupied on the morning of this day, the 8th.

Marshal Gablenz passed through the outposts again the same morning, and went to Pardubitz to see the King, as a commissioner from the Austrian Government, to treat for a suspension of hostilities. He was received by General Von Moltke, but his proposals could not be entertained, and his second mission was equally un-

¹ The villages of Zumberg and Kamenitz are too minute to be shown in the accompanying map. Any one

who desires to see how the Prussian divisions were stationed will find these places in the Austrian map of Bohemia.

successful as his first. He submitted that a suspension of hostilities should be concluded, which should last for at least eight weeks and for at most eight months ; that during this truce the troops of both nations should retain their actual positions, and a girdle of two miles in width between the outposts be observed as neutral ground. In return the Austrian commissioner proposed that the fortresses of Josephstadt and Königgrätz should be handed over to the Prussians, but without their garrisons and *matériel* of war. It was not in the interest of the Prussian army after a hardly won victory, and in its favourable circumstances, to grant such an armistice, especially as it appeared certain that Austria did not wish to definitely conclude a peace, but only to gain time to bring up her Army of the South from Italy. The passage of Marshal Gablenz through the divisions led to many reports of the speedy termination of the war, which were more or less credited.

In the meantime, amid rumours of probable peace, the army still continued its steady advance, and its march was conducted with the same precautions and the same circumspection as if the campaign was only beginning, and as if an unbroken enemy was in front, ready to take advantage of the slightest error. Advanced guards were sent forward, who carefully felt the way for the marching columns, sending scouts to the top of every rise, who, standing out sharp against the sky, peered into the distance ; riflemen moved in dotted lines through the fields at an even pace with the troops marching on the road, and trod through the corn as carefully as if they were sportsmen beating a covert, or, slipping into a

thicket, now appeared, now disappeared in the foliage much like hounds drawing for a fox. The troops on the road pushed along as steadily and perseveringly as on the first day they entered Saxony. The infantry, with their trousers turned up and boots often drawn on outside them, trudged along merrily, and seemed little to feel the heavy yellow cowskin knapsacks and mess tins for cooking which they carried on their backs. Their helmets had suffered in the campaign more than any other part of their equipment; many had lost the spike on the top, carried away by a bullet or the splinter of a shell at the battle of Königgrätz. Some looked as if they had been knocked off in the hurry of action, and had been marched over heavily by the ranks behind. The belts showed a want of pipeclay, and the boots had lost all traces of blacking; but the barrels of the rifles and the blades of the bayonets were all bright and clean, and shone out cold and gray against the dark blue uniforms. The artillery horses, a little thin, and with rather prominent ribs, from hard work and scarce forage, stepped briskly out, and almost without stretching their traces the straight, steel-barrelled guns rolled along behind them, looking on the road a mere plaything to be drawn by six horses; but when the ground was heavy from falling rain, as on the morning before Königgrätz, it needed nearly all the strength of the team to get a gun over the fields uphill, and then horses were often wanting, for their bodies, larger than those of men, were more liable to be struck by shells or bullets, and many were killed or badly wounded as soon as a battery went under fire.

After the great battle, the positions that had been occupied by the field batteries on either side could be traced by the numbers of dead horses lying where the limbers and waggons had stood. Often twenty or thirty lay dead in a line near together along the front of the battery, and others limped about near them, and though always moving never tried to go away from their dead companions. They, too, were soon stretched upon the ground, for the Krankenträger, looking for the sick, mercifully placed a carbine behind the ear of every wounded animal, and quickly put it out of pain. The mass of the cavalry scoured the country to the south of the main army, keeping watch and ward over its right flank, but here and there a few turned up in the line of march, generally a detachment of some troopers guarding waggons. These detachments were of all kinds of horsemen,—cuirassiers with their white flannel coats braced tightly in by the cuirass, and with heavy-looking high jack-boots, were followed quickly by some few men of the Ziethen Hussars, with short crimson jackets, or by some of the Weimar light cavalry, with their light blue and silver uniforms looking none the worse for exposure, while every column was headed by Uhlans, the black and white flags of whose lances waved with an almost funereal aspect above their smart caps and gay red or yellow facings.

The army marched in several columns, and from every rise could be seen the different lines creeping like long blue serpents over the country. Dipping into hollows, twisting through villages, twining among trees, appearing and disappearing through woods and thickets, they

stretched for many a long mile from front to rear. Always looking steadily ahead, they pushed on with the men's faces against the sun, and seemed to be bending towards the fortress of Olmütz, under the walls of which the Austrians were reported to have an intrenched camp, where there were said to be over 100,000 fighting men, with 400 pieces of artillery ensconced in fortifications. Collected here, the Austrian troops, it was said, meant to bar the road southwards from the Prussians; if these passed on disregarding them, to issue out, and, seizing the communications of the army, cut off from it all its supplies of ammunition and food from the North.

Again, on the 8th, the line of march lay through a country rich and abundant in supplies, and from which the natives had not fled away; and again the columns moved through country lanes, in some places shadowed in by fruit-trees, in others leading over breezy uplands where the limestone rocks cropped up close to the surface of the ground, and left but a scanty soil to nourish the short grass which grew thick upon it. Here and there the rocks cropped out of the ground and rose up some twenty feet high, forming grotesquely-shaped natural grottoes, round which clumps of tall silver fir clustered, and at the foot of the trees, spread in great profusion, wild roses, sweetbriar, foxglove, and nightshade. All the farm-houses and cottages were built of brick, thickly coated with clean white plaster, and in the smallest hamlet there was always a church with a steeple surmounted by the large globe-like top, often gilt, which seems peculiar to Slavonic countries. No wooden cottages were to be seen here, for the people are richer

than those north of the Elbe, and the army left behind it, when it crossed that river, the pine-wood huts, so many of which had been lately destroyed by the flames kindled by the fire of the artillery. The houses, both outside and inside, were beautifully clean ; the furniture was of plain deal, without paint, scoured to a whiteness which is unknown in Northern Bohemia ; the brass handles of the drawers and the steel and iron round the fireplaces shone bright from much polishing, and reflected back distorted images of the soldiers, who, in their dusty clothes and heavy boots, dirty from marching, looked much out of place in the houses in which they were billeted. The inhabitants sighed sadly over the war, for their crops had been injured ; soldiers of both armies had been billeted in their houses, for the Austrians retreated through this part of the country two days before ; and some of them had sons or brothers in the Austrian service. But there was no ill-will between them and the Prussian soldiers. Indeed, the latter were always so good-natured that it would have been difficult even for churls to quarrel with them, and such the natives of the valley of the Elbe are not. They would have preferred peace to war ; they suffered deeply in having their houses turned into barracks, their corn-fields into bivouacs, their barns and outhouses into stables for war horses ; but they did not blame the soldiers for injuries for the cause of which the latter were as innocent as the inhabitants themselves ; they gave the men what they could ; nor did the villagers and peasants attempt to impose upon the soldiers, though the town shopkeepers, more keenly alive to their own interests, generally managed to make

a profit out of the difference of the Prussian and Austrian coinage.

The head-quarters of the First Army were on the night of the 8th established in a monastery at Chrast. The priests were still there, but gave up the greater part of the house to Prince Frederick Charles and his staff. Military waggons and horses were picketed inside the usually quiet monastery close; soldier servants went whistling up and down the corridors and among the cells, saddle-bags and valises were bundled upstairs, and the monastery would soon have been very like a barrack were it not that the priests kept flitting about, good-naturedly proffering food and drink to both officers and soldiers; for, although they looked on both as the enemies of their country, and, perhaps, even of their Church, they knew that the army had marched far and fast, and they practised that charity which should be the connecting link among all Christian creeds.

From the church close by the monastery, as a centre, the little town spreads out, its white houses glistening brightly in the sun, along four streets, almost at right angles to each other. Between and behind the houses lay little gardens, in which grew most English greenhouse flowers; vines were trained in trelliswork against the walls, and beyond the fields stretched away, covered with heavy crops ripening for harvest; and between the corn-fields lay long belts of gaudy-coloured poppies, which are cultivated in this country in great quantities. The church bell sounding slowly, probably for vespers, for the day was Sunday, and a few women, with shawls in Bohemian fashion thrown over their bare heads, disappearing

into the church door, and just seen within crossing themselves with the holy water, would have made the whole scene one of perfect peace ; but the piles of bayonets by every door, the perpetual soldiers bustling along the streets, the cantonniers who had established their itinerant stalls close outside the church door, and were squabbling with soldiers over the value of black cigars or schnapps, told that this smiling little town was the head-quarters of an army which had just marched from a battle-field, and was pressing forward again to force its enemy to battle ; for the policy of the Prussian army was now to cling to the heels of the retreating Austrians and to force them to fight before they had time to re-organize their forces. On the 9th July the whole force was again moved towards the south-east. That night the King's head-quarters were at Hohenmauth ; the head-quarters of Prince Frederick Charles, commanding the centre, were at the village of Reichenberg, about twenty-five miles south-east of Pardubitz. The Crown Prince, with the head-quarters of the Second Army, halted for the night at Leitomischl, one march to the east of the First Army ; and the Army of the Elbe was pursuing its way, at an even pace with the two others, under General Von Bittenfeld, along the road which leads to Iglau. No intelligence had yet been received of the occupation of Prague, although it was considered certain that Prussian troops must have occupied that town. Tidings of the capital of Bohemia being actually possessed were eagerly looked for, not only by those who took a strategical interest in the campaign, but by all who wished to receive private supplies from Berlin ; for till the railway communication

was established parcels could hardly be expected to arrive ; and tobacco and cigars, which rank in Germany almost on a par with food, were very scarce, and a fresh supply was eagerly desired. This day's was a short march, but the most unpleasant one which the army had yet had. A drizzling rain fell in the early morning, and a cold wind was blowing, which drove their wet clothes against the soldiers' bodies, and made them shiver even as they marched ; but towards mid-day the rain ceased, and the sun burst through the clouds, so that the men got dry ; but heavy rain again fell in the afternoon, and the bivouac at night was moist and uncomfortable. Again this day the country was found fertile, and the inhabitants still in their houses ; all received kindly the soldiers who came into the cottages along the line of march to buy food or tobacco, and some even expressed a desire to become Prussians, stating as a reason that they should pay less taxes than under the Austrian rule ; but whether this wish was sincere, or only elicited by the presence of the Prussian troops and from a desire of flattering their national pride, is open to question.

At this time Feldzeugmeister Benedek was working hard to re-organize the relics of the Austrian Army of the North at Olmütz. Although over sixty years old, he displayed a capacity for labour, both in the saddle and at the desk, which would have shamed many a younger man. He was at this time ordered to despatch the mass of his army by rail to Vienna, where it was to be united to the Austrian army from Italy, under the command of the Archduke Albrecht.¹

¹ Letters from the correspondents of the *Times* with the Austrian army.

Count Mensdorf was despatched from Vienna directly, after the defeat at Königgrätz, to the head-quarters of the Army of the North, in order there to inquire into the circumstances of that disaster. The consequences of his mission were that a military commission was later assembled at Weiner Neustadt, before which Count Clam-Gallas and Generals Henikstein, Krismanics, and Benedek himself were summoned to appear.

General Von John was appointed Chief of the Staff to the Archduke Albrecht. The Austrian Government wished, by bringing up its Army of the South, to oppose a force to the advance of the Prussians, but the troops from Italy did not arrive quickly enough. It was only on the 12th July that the first detachment of nine thousand men arrived at Vienna.

From the time of the battle of Königgrätz, the Prussian armies had lost all traces of the Austrians until the 8th July, when some of the Crown Prince's advanced troops fell in with an outpost of the enemy before Zwittau, near the junction of the two branches of rail which lead from Olmütz and Brünn to Bömisch Trübau. After a slight skirmish the Austrians fell back, and on the 9th the Crown Prince occupied Mäh-risch Trübau and Zwittau, two towns of Moravia. That evening the first corps d'armée halted at Zwittau, the Guards at Wildenschwert, the fifth corps at Landskron.

The first intelligence which the Prussians received of the retreat of the Austrian army had made it appear probable that Benedek had withdrawn the greater portion of it to Brünn, on the direct line to Vienna. Now the whole of his movements were cleared up. An

Austrian field post happened to be captured in front of Mährisch Trübau, and many interesting private letters found in it, which established the demoralized condition of Benedek's army, as well as a copy of the orders of that general for the marches of his corps, and the movements of his administrative services. It was thus discovered that only the tenth Austrian corps and the heavy cavalry of the Prince of Schleswig-Holstein had been sent to Brünn, and that the rest of the Army of the North was seeking shelter under the guns of Olmütz until it should be in a fit condition to attack the Prussians. A few days later the Austrian cavalry retaliated, and captured a Prussian field post, in which a despatch of the Crown Prince was found that gave them some valuable information with regard to the Prussian movements.

On the 10th July, the King of Prussia moved his head-quarters to Zwickau. This day it was known to the Prussians that the Austrian Army of the South had commenced its journey to Vienna from Olmütz by railway. The transport of this army was conducted as quickly as possible, and between the 7th and the 13th Benedek despatched three corps—the 3d, 4th, and 6th—to the capital.¹ When it was ascertained that the Austrian army was moving to the south, the march of the Crown Prince was directed towards Prerau, that he might there cut the railway communication between Olmütz and Vienna.

On the 10th, a long march of twenty-five miles

¹ On no point is there so much popular misunderstanding as on the transport of troops by rail in war. The experience of the German campaign

proves that 10,000 men, equipped for the field, is the most that can be safely calculated upon to be moved per day on a single railway.

brought the head-quarters of the First Army to the little town of Neustadt, which lies about fifty miles to the north-west of Brünn. It was a wet morning; the clouds hung low, and a drizzling rain made the soft country road deep for the infantry and heavy for the artillery and baggage waggons, for this day the army did not move on one of the main *chaussées*, but by one of the lesser roads which lead through the highland country dividing Bohemia from Moravia. As the road ascended, the scenery became more and more bleak and cold; the corn was in the higher parts quite short and green, and in some places not in ear; cultivation was only on patches of ground, and where the land was not tilled the grass grew short and bare. Cold, hard-looking rocks projected everywhere from the soil; the surface of the ground was thickly strewn with large stones, among which a few stunted larch-trees looked as though they had to struggle hard to obtain soil sufficient for even their roots. Above the road on the hill-sides grow dense forests of spruce and silver fir, the tops of which were for the most part shrouded in a thick mist. The dwellings along the line of march were in keeping with the aspect of the country—low, dirty, and untidy, without any gardens, and, generally standing alone on the bleak hill-side, they seemed fitting habitations for the squalid and starved-looking inhabitants who lounged in their doorways, watching with a lazy curiosity the soldiers marching on the road. The men, thin and with sharply-drawn features, seemed to have no work to do, but leant lazily against the doorposts smoking long black pipes; the women, with feet bare and garments

scanty, shivered beside them, holding in their arms a dirty infant, or combing out their tangled hair.

The foot-soldiers trudged sullenly along; the march was long for them, and the road bad, but they kept up a good pace the whole way, and there were no stragglers. But they have had enough of wet, though, in defiance of the rain, they marched with their cloaks rolled up, mainly to keep them dry for the night bivouac, and longed for dry weather or a harder road. The horses of the artillery laboured heavily, but got the guns and ponderous waggons, weighty with ammunition and corn-sacks full of forage piled up on them, up the quickly-recurring bits of steep ascent in the road. At every sharp rise the drivers flogged and spurred, the gunners pushed behind, and, though the horses stumbled and often nearly fell, and the traces were stretched so tight that they looked as if they must break, no accident occurred, and every artillery carriage arrived safely, at its destination. The baggage-waggons did not fare so well. Less strongly horsed and not so well driven, they all dropped far behind the troops, and a few remained stranded on the side of the way with a broken axle-tree or a shivered wheel.

Near the little town of Swratka the frontier of Moravia was passed, but the road that descends from it still ran along the hill country of the frontier, and only came down into a valley near Neustadt to rise again at the beginning of the morrow's march. Within Moravia the country, though perhaps even less fertile, was more pleasing. All pretence of cultivation had been given up, for trees grew down close to the road, and

where there was not wood the ground was wet and marshy, and showed no signs of ever having been drained; and the horses of the cavalry who scouted in front of the columns floundered along, sinking in it above their fetlocks.

The monotony of the march was relieved by a spirited cavalry skirmish in the little town of Saar, which is about six miles to the west of Neustadt. On the previous night the Austrian hussars of the regiment of Hesse-Cassel held Saar. The Prussian cavalry was to proceed on the 10th to Gammy, about a mile in front of Saar, and the 9th regiment of Uhlans formed its advanced guard on the march. The Austrians intended to march the same day to the rear towards Brünn, and the hussars were actually assembling for parade previous to the march when the first patrols of the Prussian Uhlans came rattling into the town. The Austrians were collecting together from all the different houses and farmyards; mounted men, filing out of barns and strawhouses, were riding slowly towards their rendezvous in the market-place; men who had not yet mounted were leading their horses, strolling carelessly alongside them, when, by some fault of their sentinels, they were surprised by the Prussians. The Uhlans were much inferior in number at first, but their supports were coming up behind them, and this disadvantage was compensated for by the Austrians being taken unawares. The Uhlans quickly advanced, but did not charge before one Austrian squadron had time to form, and only while most of the men of the remaining divisions were quickly falling into their ranks, though some were cut off from

the rendezvous by the Prussians advancing beyond the doors from which they were issuing, and were afterwards made prisoners.

In the market-place an exciting contest at once began. The celebrated cavalry of Austria were attacked by the rather depreciated horsemen of Prussia, and the lance, the "queen of weapons," as its admirers love to term it, was being engaged in real battle against the sword. The first Prussian soldiers who rode into the town were very few in number, and they could not attack before some more came up. This delay of a few minutes gave the hussars a short time to hurry together from the other parts of the town, and by the time the Uhlans received their reinforcements the Austrians were nearly formed.

As soon as their supports came up the lancers formed a line across the street, advanced a few yards at a walk, then trotted for a short distance, their horses' feet pattering on the stones, the men's swords jingling, their accoutrements rattling, and their lances borne upright, with the black and white flags streaming over their heads; but when near the opening into the broader street, which is called the Market-place, a short, sharp word of command, a quick, stern note from the trumpet, the lance-points came down and were sticking out in front of the horses' shoulders, the horses broke into a steady gallop, and the lance flags fluttered rapidly from the motion through the air, as the horsemen, with bridle hands low and bodies bent forward, lightly gripped the staves, and drove the points straight to the front.

But when the Prussians began to gallop, the Austrians were also in motion. With a looser formation and a

greater speed they came on, their blue pelisses, trimmed with fur and embroidered with yellow, flowing freely from their left shoulders, leaving their sword-arms disencumbered. Their heads, well up, carried the single eagle's feather in every cap straight in the air; their swords were raised, bright and sharp, ready to strike, as their wiry little horses, pressed tight by the knees of the riders, came bounding along, and dashed against the Prussian ranks as if they would leap over the points of the lances. The Uhlans swayed heavily under the shock of the collision, but, recovering again, pressed on, though only at a walk. In front of them were mounted men, striking with their swords, parrying the lance-thrusts, but unable to reach the lancer; but the ground was also covered with men and horses, struggling together to rise; loose horses were galloping away; dismounted hussars in their blue uniforms and long boots were hurrying off to try to catch their chargers or to avoid the lance-points. The Uhlan line appeared unbroken, but the hussars were almost dispersed. They had dashed up against the firmer Prussian ranks, and they had recoiled, shivered, scattered, and broken as a wave is broken that dashes against a cliff. In the few moments that the ranks were locked together, it seems that the horsemen were so closely jammed against each other that lance or sword was hardly used. The hussars escaped the points in rushing in, but their speed took them so close to the lancers' breasts that they had not even room to use their swords. Then the Prussians, stouter and taller men, mounted on heavier horses, mostly bred from English sires, pressed hard on the light frames and the smaller

horses of the hussars, and by mere weight and physical strength bore them back, and forced them from their seats to the ground; or sometimes, so rude was the shock, sent horse and man bounding backwards, to come down with a clatter on the pavement.

The few Austrians who remained mounted fought for a short time to stop the Prussian advance, but they could make no impression on the lancers. Wherever a hussar made a dash to close three points bristled couched against his chest or his horse's breast, for the Austrians were now in inferior numbers in the streets to the Prussians, and the narrowness of the way would not allow them to retire for their reserves to charge. So the Prussians pressed steadily forward in an invulnerable line, and the Austrians, impotent to stop them, had to fall back before them. Before they had gone far through the town fighting this irregular combat more Prussian cavalry came up behind the Uhlans, and the Austrians began to draw off. The lancers pushed after them, but the hussars got away, and at the end of the town the pursuit ceased. One officer and twenty-two non-commissioned officers and privates taken prisoners, with nearly forty captured horses, fell into the hands of the Uhlans, as the trophies of this skirmish. Some of the prisoners were wounded; a few hussars killed, and two or three Prussians were left dead upon the ground.

One or two of the privates taken prisoners were Germans, but by far the greater number were Hungarians—smart, soldierlike-looking fellows, of a wiry build; they looked the very perfection of light horsemen, but were no match in a *mêlée* for the tall, strong

cavalry soldiers of Prussia, who seemed with one hand to be able to wring them from their saddles, and hurl them to the ground.

The inhabitants of Neustadt reported that there was an Austrian cavalry division of four regiments at Ostrau, a village about six miles south of Saar, and it seemed clear from the reports of the prisoners that there was a strong cavalry force in front of the advancing Prussians. On the 10th July five hundred Italians, deserters from the Austrian service, surrendered themselves to General Von Bittenfeld, the commander of the Army of the Elbe, and volunteered to serve during the war in the Prussian army; but the King had no need of foreign troops, and very naturally declined the proffered services of men who had been faithless to one cause, and ordered that they should be sent to Italy, where they might perhaps have an opportunity of proving their patriotism on the Mincio.

The same day all the Saxon prisoners who had been taken during the campaign were released and sent to their homes, on condition of taking an oath not to serve against Prussia during the war. They all took the oath, and went to Saxony; but many seemed to quit their prisons with regret, for they had no money, and they feared that there would be no work to be found in their own country; but this fear ought not to have been well-grounded, for the harvest in Saxony was close at hand, and the crops there had not been trampled down by battles or bivouacs.

The weather on the 11th was better than that of the previous day. The sun shone out warm, and lighted up

the dark groves of fir-wood which hung above the road, and shining on the trunks of the silver firs relieved the monotonous dark green of the foliage. The road was very hilly, and in some places bad, but it was drying quickly under the influence of the sun, and the soldiers marched cheerfully, careless of the depressing weather which had lately been the rule. The way still lay through the Moravian highlands, but the increased heat of the sun, the presence of oak and ash among the firs, the yellower crops and more abundant grass showed that the army was gradually working down towards the valley of the Schwarzwawa ; but the country did not become more plain, nor did the rivulets tumble down alongside the road in less frequent miniature cataracts ; on the contrary, the ground was more broken up in hills and valleys. The former were not high, nor did they run in any chain, or in any order ; sometimes they rose as huge, isolated, rounded masses, the tops of which were shrouded in fir plantations, while abutting mica rocks projecting from their sides reflected brightly the rays of the sun ; sometimes they ran in tortuous ridges, breaking suddenly into a steep ravine, to allow the passage of a watercourse ; or throwing up some huge masses of rock which, sparkling in the sunlight, contrasted strongly with the dark leaves of the surrounding trees, seemed to form natural castles to defend the road. In such a country a few riflemen might have delayed seriously the march of the army, but the advanced guard had patrolled the paths through all the woods, had sent scouts to the top of every hill, had looked down into every ravine, and, though the Austrian cavalry was known to be between

them and Brünn, they marched on to Tischnowitz without finding an Austrian Jäger, or meeting with any opposition to their progress.

Fifteen miles from Neustadt, where it had halted the night before, the Head-quarter Staff turned aside from the road, followed a rough country lane for two miles, and then plunged by a rugged, winding path into a deep ravine formed by one of the feeders of the Schwarzwawa. On the side of the ravine over which the path led through a thick wood, perched high on a prominent rock, and rising above fir-trees, stood the old Schloss of Bernstein, where it had been considered advisable to fix head-quarters for the night. The battlements and loop-holed walls of the old castle strongly lighted up by the sun, the steep ravine below sunk in shade, the helmets of the escort, the line of armed and mounted men, formed a scene which savoured more of romance than of modern war.

The Prince Frederick Charles and his staff turned down the twisting path, crossed the river by a wooden bridge close to a water-mill, and, by a more easy ascent on the other side, gained the gate, which still bore the marks of where a porteullis had been. But in the yard within every-day life was rudely recalled. The spare horses of the officers had already arrived, and indignant grooms were anathematizing fiercely because they could get no stabling for their charges ; the steep road forbade the approach of the forage waggons, and neither hay nor corn were to be found in the antiquated building. The appearance of the Commander-in-chief for a few moments hushed the clamour, but when he rode on each aggrieved

domestic made a rush at his master, and loudly poured forth the tale of his sorrows. A compromise was effected, for hay and corn had been provided at a farmhouse near at hand; and when the servants were assured that the horses should have food, they bore with resignation that they must be all night without cover.

But attention was soon called away from both the scenery and the horses by the arrival of an Uhlan officer from the advanced guard, who rode up the yard at a gallop, and, jumping off his horse before the Commander-in-chief, with his hand to his forehead, delivered a hurried report.

The advanced guard had found the enemy's cavalry in strong force at Tischnowitz, and the Duke of Mecklenburg had sent him to Prince Frederick Charles to report the fact and receive his orders. The orders were soon written, and Major Von Capprivi, a staff-officer, who has a high reputation in this army, was entrusted to deliver them to the commander of the advanced guard.

Major Capprivi's horse was tired with a long march, and Tischnowitz lay fifteen miles off, but he had no choice but to carry the order, and in a few minutes he was ready to start. With him went three officers, who had been employed as aides-de-camp at head-quarters, but whose regiments were in the advanced guard, and who went to join them for the action which was expected. Revolvers were inspected, and the priming carefully looked to, for Austrian patrols were expected to be on the road, and it was just possible that the little band might have to ride for their lives. But they started in

high spirits, for the excitement of probable battle nerved them, and two hours of a sharp trot brought them to Tischnowitz.

Here, in a small town on the banks of the Schwarzwawa, the Austrian cavalry had taken up their position. The road leading to the town goes straight along the valley, and keeping a direct course is obliged some three or four times to cross by wooden bridges the channel of the stream, which is here about fifty feet wide. When the Duke of Mecklenburg, with the advanced guard, was approaching Tischnowitz, he perceived that the enemy was in the town, and in strong force of cavalry with artillery in the plain beyond, where he occupied a position which could not be turned by cavalry on account of the rugged nature of the hills on either flank. But the Austrians, besides the horsemen in the town and on the far side, had thrown out three squadrons in the direction of Tischnowitz, of which the centre one was in the road and between the bridges, and the right and left were thrown into the corn-fields on either side. The Prussian troopers, few in number, who formed the advance of the advanced guard, had ridden forward toward the bridges, and had almost begun to cross the first before they perceived the hostile cavalry. Then they found that both their flanks were exposed to attack, and that the squadron in the road in front of them was getting ready to charge. The Prussian advanced guard was from the 2d regiment of dragoons of the Guard ; the Austrian squadrons were lancers, and it seemed that the skirmish of the previous day between sword and lance would be repeated with the weapons in opposite hands.

But the lieutenant commanding the small Prussian advanced guard, seeing that he was too weak to force his way, and fearing to be surrounded and cut off, retreated a short distance to where a slight rise in the ground gave him a certain advantage of position, and there drawing up his little force awaited an attack, but with no intention of meeting it with the sword. While his men were yet retiring, they were unbuckling their carbines, and before they had turned to stand, their quickly-loaded arms, constructed on the same principle as the needle-gun, were ready to fire. And not too soon, for the Austrians had begun to advance quickly, and were defiling over the bridge, prepared to form line and charge, when a sudden volley from the Prussian carbines made them pull up sharp, half surprised, half frightened to find that a carbine could be of any use, except to make noise or smoke, in the hands of a mounted man. But the Prussians did not wait to observe the discomfiture of their enemies ; their officer only noticed that they were in too strong force to be allowed to get near his much smaller band, and again he retreated a little distance ; and so quick were the dragoons with their loading that their carbines were almost ready to fire again before they turned to retire. The Austrians again formed to charge, and again before they had settled into their stride a rapid volley stopped their career. Again the Prussians retired, and again faced about ready to fire another volley. Again the Austrians came on, and again the fire of the dragoons stopped them short ; but this was the last time, for the whole of the first squadron of the dragoons were now up, and had formed line beside the

few who had hitherto prevented the advance of the lancers.

Then the dragoons advanced to charge, and the Austrians, glad to exchange the chance of close quarters for the fire of the carbines, came forward to meet them. Both sides advanced steadily: the lancers, with their spears in rest, came on in an apparently impenetrable line; but the dragoons, with their sword-points to the front and their horses well in hand, bore steadily down upon them, in the last few yards let their horses go, and dashed in through the points of the lances. Their commander, Major Von Shack, went down, grievously wounded, but his men thought of his fall only to avenge it, and rushed in so close to the lancers that their spears were useless, smiting them heavily with their keen bright swords. A few moments only the *mêlée* lasted; then the lancers, turning, flew towards the town. The dragoons pursued, but their officer kept them well in hand, and they did not lose their order. When the street was gained the lancers turned again, the swordsmen thundered down upon them, and by sheer weight and strength of blows bore them backwards along the street. The fight was long and hard. The men, too close together to use their weapons, grappled with one another; the horses, frightened and enraged, snorted, plunged, reared, and struck out. But the Prussians had superior weight and strength, and pressed their antagonists back along the streets to a wider space in the centre of the town, where a high image of the Madonna, carved in stone, looked down upon the fray. Here an Austrian officer, hurled from his saddle by a

tall Prussian dragoon, had his brains dashed out against the foot of the monument, and another Austrian, bent backwards over the cantle of his saddle, had his spine broken by the strength of his assailant. The light Austrian men and horses had no chance in this close conflict, and soon they were obliged to turn, and fled down the street to where their supports were drawn up behind the town. Here there was a strong force of Austrian cavalry, and a battery of horse artillery was placed so as to sweep the road. But the cavalry drew off without waiting for an attack, and the artillery retired without firing a shot; which can only be accounted for by believing, as the country people said, that there was no ammunition with the guns. The Prussian supports came up and pushed two miles beyond the town, but the Austrians had drawn off too quickly to again allow an engagement; and the outposts were placed here for the night. Then the Duke of Mecklenburg made his arrangements for his advance to Brünn the next morning; and when he had given a general sketch of his plans, Major Von Capprivi and Captain Von Bergmann, the staff officer attached to the advanced guard, retired to a back room in the small country inn of Tischnowitz, and, by the light of a single tallow candle, discussed till late into the night, and sketched upon their maps, the details of the occupation of the capital of Moravia.

. The march was ordered for four o'clock in the morning, for it was expected that the Austrian cavalry would defend the approach to the town, and it was intended to surprise them before they had made their dispositions.

It was after midnight that the two staff officers threw themselves on some trusses of straw to catch a few short hours of sleep before the commencement of an operation which might perhaps have been one of the most decisive of the campaign, for the plans were skilfully laid, and it seemed that if the Austrians attempted to stand in front of the town a great part of their cavalry would have been captured. All that the staff appeared to fear was that the cavalry would draw off through the town before daylight, and too early for the dispositions for their capture to be carried out—for the infantry who were required to invest the further side of Brünn had marched far in the day, and were too tired to be sent forward before daybreak.

At three o'clock on the morning of the 12th July, the soldiers of the advanced guard of the First Prussian Army were roused from their billets, and began making their preparations for the march. Horses were saddled; the cloaks in which the men had been sleeping were rolled up and buckled on the pommels, girths and bridle reins carefully inspected, and the troopers, before they mounted, drew their hands along the edges of their swords to test the sharpness of their weapons. The officers looked to the loading of their revolvers, and buckled their pistols round their waists, so that they might be easily got at in case of need; and it was expected that they would be required, for three divisions of Austrian cavalry were reported to be between the small town where the advanced guard halted the previous night and Brünn, and the Duke of Mecklenburg had only three cavalry regiments with him.

At a quarter before four, before the sun was up, the troops began marching out of Tischnowitz, and in three-quarters of an hour formed up before the little village of Hradschau, which the most advanced outposts had occupied during the former night. Here the Duke of Mecklenburg called his principal officers round him, and told them that he expected to find three divisions of the enemy's cavalry, forming together a force of twelve regiments, in front of him ; but that his orders were to occupy Brünn if possible, and that he intended to advance immediately. The troops were then formed in the order in which they were to move behind a ridge of rising ground, over which the Brünn road rises and falls, about a quarter of a mile beyond Hradschau. The 2d dragoons of the Guard led ; they were followed by the Ziethen Hussars and a battery of horse artillery ; then came a battalion of Jägers, followed by the rest of the infantry and artillery, and a regiment of lancers closed the rear.

As soon as the formation was complete, the dragoons sent out their scouts, and in a few minutes the top of the ridge was studded with mounted men who showed out clear against the morning sky. Every horseman carried his carbine in his right hand, ready to fire ; but the staff listened in vain for the sharp crack which would tell that the enemy was in sight ; and the scouts, after peering forward for a few moments, dipped down behind the ridge, and were hidden. Then the dragoons advanced along the road. When their leading troops gained the top of the ascent they spread out right and left, and pushed across the fields that lay on either side of the

way. The hussars, in column of troops, followed along the highway, raising a cloud of dust which almost hid them, and from its midst rose the steady patter of horses' feet and the jingle of steel which mark the march of cavalry. The guns rumbled behind, with rammers and sponges ready for action, and limber-boxes unlocked, each closely followed by its mounted gunners, prepared to spring down and twist the muzzle round towards the front. Carefully beating through the corn, and covering every piece of rising ground, the dragoons steadily advanced ; but no sign of an enemy was seen, and the advanced scouts reached the village of Tschepen without finding traces of even a last night's bivouac.

Here the road ran through a narrow defile, with high banks covered with plantations, and the houses of the village standing across the pass would have formed a strong position for the Austrians to hold. On approaching the village the cavalry was halted, and the riflemen were sent for to beat through the wood and push in among the houses. The halt was not long, for in a few minutes the Jägers came up quickly with a long swinging stride, passed by the cavalry, and burst like a pack of hounds into the village and up the sides of the slopes. Now and then a dark green uniform appeared among the trees only to disappear again ; and here and there among the houses the sunlight glancing back from a rifle barrel, ever further advanced, showed that the skirmishers were working forward, but the sound of no shot came back, and it was clear that the village was deserted. The cavalry and guns then moved on, and filed along the narrow street ; but the Jägers were still kept in front,

for the defile did not end till the village of Gurein was passed. The dragoons then spread out again, and went peeping inquisitively into every hollow, ferreting out the inhabitants of the cottages to give information, and stopping every peasant who seemed to be in too pressing a hurry to get away in the direction in which the Austrian cavalry was supposed to lie.

The country people asserted with one accord that the Austrians had retired through Brünn the night before or early that morning, and there were no troops in front of the town ; that a few dragoons and lancers had bivouacked the previous evening just outside Brünn, but had passed through at daybreak, and were already far on the road to Vienna.

The road ran over successive ridges, each of which would have been an advantageous standing-point for the Austrians had they meant to oppose the Prussian advance into the town. As position after position was covered by the scouts without finding the enemy, and as the stories of the country people were always the same, the staff began to believe that the Austrian cavalry had really retired, and that their troops would seize the place without opposition. The road from Tischnowitz strikes the high road from Zwittau to Brünn about six miles before reaching the latter town, and when this point was passed it seemed almost sure that the way was clear, and that the Austrians had drawn off ; and here this assurance received a further confirmation, for at this point a dragoon came in bringing with him two travellers, who had in the morning left Brünn for Zwittau, and had been stopped on their way by the foremost Prussian patrol.

Glad to exchange their information for permission to proceed on their journey, they willingly told that the town was deserted by troops, and that all the Austrians had retired early in the morning.

But the march was continued, notwithstanding these reports, with even greater precaution ; the scouts were as alert as before, and the main body moved through the corn-land by the side of the road, prepared to form line of battle. About eight o'clock the leading troops ascended a gentle slope, from the top of which the capital of Moravia could be seen lying four miles before them. Here a halt was called, and the staff-officers went forward a little way to reconnoitre.

The sun shone brightly on the spires of the churches and on the roofs of the houses, but no swords or spear-heads glittered in its light ; and on the fort of the Spielberg, on the western side of the town, no guns could be seen, and no sentinels stood upon the ramparts. White flags of truce were flying from every steeple and from every tower, and, instead of the Austrian colours, a white sheet waved from the flagstaff of the fort. It was evident that the town had surrendered. In a few minutes a deputation from the magistracy arrived to announce officially that the town was deserted by the Austrian troops, and praying that it might not be given up to pillage. The Duke of Mecklenburg willingly promised that the property of the inhabitants should be secure to them, for there had been no intention to allow plundering.

Then, after an hour's halt, the troops again advanced, and soon got between two lines of villas which stand

outside the town on each side of the road. The scouts came cantering in, and, drawing together on the road, formed an advanced guard, behind which the Duke of Mecklenburg and his staff rode. Before the actual town was reached, a deputation—the burgomaster and magistrates—were seen coming to meet the troops in cabs with white flags flying from them, and each with a broad band of white round his arm. As soon as they saw the staff they sprang out of their carriages, and, with hats in hand, came forward bowing, with many prayers for the preservation of their city from pillage. They had much wealth in the city, and they feared for their property.

The Prussian commander answered them courteously, but told them that his men had marched early and had no provisions, and that, therefore, he should be much obliged to them to furnish dinner for 8,000 soldiers, and forage for 2,500 horses. The magistrates started back to the town to procure the rations.

When the deputation was dismissed the troops again advanced. The line of spectators became thicker along the side of the road, crowds of inhabitants along the side of the way courted the smiles of the soldiers, white flags hung from every window, and the inmates of many houses, with a mockery of enthusiasm, had hung out green boughs and wreaths of leaves to welcome the invaders of their country.

The dragoons were sent on in advance, and went clattering through the town to occupy the bridges on the further side; Jägers swung swiftly forward to seize the railway station, the post-office, and the telegraph

bureau ; and the rest of the infantry marched in with music playing, seized the Spielberg, and took possession of the capital of Moravia.

Prince Frederick Charles came in late in the afternoon at the head of General Manstein's division. When he reached the Platz he halted, and drew on one side to see his men march past him. The soldiers had been on the road since two o'clock in the morning, but the regiments marched as if they had not come two miles. With steady tramp and all in step, with unbroken ranks and battalions undiminished by stragglers, they marched into the town. Dusty and worn boots alone showed that they had come across Bohemia, fought a great battle, and had been marching lately over twenty-five miles a day ; for they had halted outside to brush their clothes, and they came in with cloaks well-folded, knapsacks as well put on, and arms as clean, as if they had been in garrison at home. The 60th, a regiment renowned for its marching, well sustained its reputation ; the men, shoulder to shoulder, close as if linked together, moved forward like a solid wall, and notwithstanding their fatigue, for they had come over thirty miles, stepped in such perfect cadence from front to rear of the regiment that only one footfall was heard upon the pavement. The 24th, tall men and well-built, came along with heads well up and rifles carried as if they could not know fatigue, and were quite unaware that they bore a heavy knapsack on their shoulders. The other regiments also marched bravely, and their chief looked that day as proud of his troops as when he stood among them victorious on the summit of the Sadowa hill ; and

well he might, for the Prussian army has given proof of an endurance of fatigue and of a power of marching which have rarely been equalled in the annals of war ; for the marches had not been made by small detachments or over open ground, but by large masses, along deep and heavy roads, encumbered with artillery and crowded with carriages.

The head-quarters of the First Army halted at Brünn on the 13th July. The troops had marched their shoes off their feet, and no repairs could be made during the late rapid marches ; the horses of the cavalry wanted rest and shocing, the saddlery required looking to, reserves of ammunition had to be brought up, and it was necessary to establish depôts and hospitals. The advanced guard was, however, pushing on that morning to Medritz, about six miles beyond the town, on the road to Vienna. All day long the remaining troops of the First Army were marching in. Regiment after regiment, with band playing and drums beating, tramped steadily along the pavement, drawing behind its long line of glittering bayonets the heavy wagons which carry reserve cartridges and hospital stores, and always follow close in rear of the battalions. The townspeople had quite recovered from the panic caused by the approach of the Prussians. All the shops were open, the manufactories were at work, the market-place was studded with country women who sat among the piled arms or on the poles of the artillery carriages, making up nosegays or selling fruit, for which there was a great demand among the soldiers. These, for many days, had tasted little but black bread and commissariat meat,

carried straight to the camp cooking-fire from the newly-killed ox ; for, in order to save transport, the bullocks for food were marched in rear of the regiments, and on arriving at the halting place were killed, to be immediately cooked and eaten. But here the men had good food, for the magistracy was held responsible that they should be supplied with their rations.

Every hotel, every restaurant, every café, was crowded with officers, who, having laid aside their dusty marching clothes, were dressed in uniforms as bright as would be worn in Berlin ; but unshaven beards, close-cropped hair, and the absence of epaulettes, showed that they were still on a campaign.

Soldiers with cleaned and pipeclayed belt, well-brushed coats, and smart white trousers, which had been carried, by some wonderful means, unsullied in the recesses of their knapsacks, crowded the streets, filled the beershops, and drove bargains with the proprietors of the tobacco and pipe stalls.

The lower class of inhabitants mixed freely among the soldiers, and under their guidance inspected, half timidly, half curiously, the wonderful needle-gun of which they had heard so much, and numbers of which, piled four together, were standing in long lines in the market-place.

Newspapers containing Imperial decrees dated from Vienna were freely hawked about the street. One of these told officially that Field Marshal the Archduke Albrecht had been appointed Commander-in-chief of the whole Austrian army, with Field Marshal Von John as his Chief of the Staff ; and another, that Austria was about to open a loan of 200,000,000 gulden. Cabs

pushed about the town, through the crowded streets, conveying impatient staff officers, who had to find quarters for some general, or billets for some regiment which was just arriving—no easy task, for nearly the whole infantry of the First Army was in Brünn, and though the magistracy, anxious to please the Prussians, crowded the men upon the householders, accommodation was scarce. Every house had twenty or twenty-five soldiers quartered upon it, but they did not give the inmates much trouble, for a couple of rooms with a few trusses of straw, and the use of the kitchen fire to cook their food, was all they wanted; and they did not stay much in their billets, but wandered about the town or sat in the beerhouses smoking with quiet enjoyment the long wooden pipes which, from want of tobacco, had been useless for some time past, but which had seldom been forgotten or left behind on the line of march, while some wrote long letters to their friends at home, and sent off to wives or mothers in Prussia all that they could save from their small pay.

The King arrived that afternoon, and established his head-quarters in the town-hall. With him came Count Bismark and the Minister of War. Few people had collected to see him enter the town, and the populace made no demonstration of any kind; the magistrates received him with the most obsequious politeness, each with the white and red badge of neutrality bound broad round the left arm.

Many rumours of an armistice were flying about, for M. Benedetti, the French Ambassador at Berlin, was there, and it was known that the Emperor of the French

was bringing his influence to bear upon the Prussian Court in favour of peace. Count Bismark was for some time closeted with the Ambassador in an upper room of the town-hall, where, undisturbed by the hum which rose from the crowded streets, they were supposed to be discussing the conditions of an armistice. The latest Austrian newspapers said that the Kaiser had determined that no attempt should be made to defend the capital itself, for it was thought better to let the town be occupied peaceably by an enemy than be exposed to the possibility of a bombardment. But though at this time it might have been intended that the Austrian troops should abandon Vienna, preparations were being made to continue the war. The army from the Italian frontier was being brought up towards the Danube, to add 120,000 men to the troops at present round the capital.

While the army halted here, reserve troops were being advanced into Bohemia to secure the communications with Saxony, and to keep order in rear of the armies, where the peasantry, having possessed themselves with weapons from the fields of battle, had begun to plunder convoys and to attack small escorts or patrols. The first reserve corps occupied Bohemia. Prague and Pardubitz were garrisoned in force, and the second reserve corps had been organized at Leipzig to act against the flank of the Bavarians. General Von Falckenstein was named Prussian Commandant of Bohemia, and General Manthey took his place in the command of the Army of the Maine.

But many considered that all these precautions were

useless, and that the army would never move south of Brunn. The visit of the French Ambassador, quickly reported from billet to billet, fell as a cold chill on the enthusiasm of the troops, for they longed to go to Vienna, and conclude the campaign by an entrance into the capital. But they also wished for the end of the war, and longed for home, so they hated the idea of delay, and anticipated with disgust an armistice, by the conditions of which the army might be retained at Brunn for a considerable time. A flag of truce was sent that day to the Austrian advanced guard, which lay beyond Medritz, and the staff officer who went with it carried a letter to be given to the Austrian Commander-in-chief. The contents of the letter were known only in the King's headquarters, but popular rumour did not fail to assert that the flag of truce carried with it a despatch to open negotiations which would conclude a peace.

The railway communication with Saxony was all but restored, and was actually opened on the 15th.

When Prague was occupied by the Prussian troops on the 8th, thirty locomotive engines and some thousand railway carriages were found at the railway station, and with this supply of rolling stock the railway was soon opened for military purposes between Prague and Brunn. A broken bridge between Münchengrätz and Jung-Bunzlau required several days for its repair, and still prevented communication with Berlin, but as soon as this viaduct was restored the army was able to receive supplies by the route of Türrau, Prague, and Pardubitz. The line was long, because the shorter route through Josephstadt and Königgrätz was closed by those fortresses, and the guns

of Theresienstadt prevented the line to Dresden from being used ; but communication by it required much less time than by the rough roads over which the convoys had hitherto to travel, and as soon as it was open supplies arrived much more quickly than while they were carried for many long miles over rough hill roads, along which the waggons jolted slowly and painfully.

The Army of the Elbe, after the battle of Königgrätz, formed the right wing of the general advance of the Prussians from Przelautsch and Pardubitz. It followed the most direct road southwards, and on the 10th July reached Iglau, and there crossed the boundary line between Bohemia and Moravia. Here it found detachments of General Edelsheim's cavalry in its front, but they retired without making any resistance to its advance. The capture of the imperial manufactory of cigars at Iglau supplied Herwarth's soldiers with plentiful rations of tobacco, the want of which is so much missed by German troops. In the neighbourhood of Iglau Herwarth captured one hundred transport waggons. He then moved forwards in the direction of Znaym.

CHAPTER II.

TOBITSCHAU.

WHEN the Archduke Albrecht assumed the command of all the Austrian troops in the field, he could not retain Benedek's army in Olmütz, unless he consented to sacrifice Vienna without a blow, for it was not strong enough to delay the advance of the Prussians by acting against their flank and communications. • He might have determined to occupy the line of the March with the Army of the North and the troops from Italy, but he had not time to take up a strong position here before the Prussians would be upon him. The line of this river was also badly suited for a defensive position, as an army lying along it would have had a range of mountains, that of the Lower Carpathians, in its rear. An occupation of the line of the Waag, with his left wing supported on Komorn, his centre at Leopoldstadt, and his Army of the North posted along the hills on the left bank of that river, which entirely command the plain on the right bank, while his Army of the South held the Danube near Vienna, would have afforded the Archduke many advantages. The Prussians could not have advanced against Vienna without exposing their flanks and communications to the Army of the North, nor could they have

moved against this army without placing themselves in unfavourable circumstances. They would have been obliged to cross the March and the Lower Carpathians, to fight a battle where they would have had a river and a line of hills in front of them, a chain of mountains and a river in their rear. It appears, however, that the Archduke feared that the Prussians, by seizing the passes of the Carpathians, might have neutralized the action of his Army of the North, and have pushed on against the capital, for he determined to take up the line of the Danube from Krems to Presburg, with his centre resting on the fortifications of Florisdorf, in front of Vienna. Yet a battle lost here would have yielded up all Hungary to his enemy, and have placed Austria entirely at the mercy of Prussia. Benedek was ordered to send his army from Olmütz to Vienna, and by the 14th July he had despatched his third, fourth, and sixth corps by railway to the capital. On the 15th, while more of his troops were actually upon the line, the railway communication between Olmütz and Vienna was cut near Lundenburg, by the cavalry of the advanced guard of Prince Charles, which had been pushed forward from Brünn.¹ Benedek could send no more troops by rail; he resolved, with the first, second, and eighth corps, which still remained at Olmütz, to march by road to the Danube. One brigade of the eighth corps, followed by a large proportion of artillery, moved by way of Tobitschau and Kremser, on the right bank of the March. The main body, accompanied by Benedek in person, moved on the left bank of the March, by way of Prerau; while a garrison of twenty-

¹ See page 159.

five thousand men was left in Olmütz. This movement of the Austrian general brought on the

ACTION OF TOBITSCHAU.

The army of the Crown Prince, after leaving Pardubitz, was directed, as has been already seen, in the direction of Olmütz. On the 14th July the advanced guard of the first corps d'armée reached Prosnitz, about twelve miles to the southward of Olmütz. This advanced guard consisted of General Buddenbrock's brigade, which had been reinforced by some additional artillery, and was accompanied by the first regiment of hussars. Near Prosnitz some detachments of hostile cavalry made their appearance, advancing from Wrahartz. These were Saxon dragoons, which, after a slight skirmish, the Prussian hussars drove back to Kralitz and Biskupitz, on the river Blatta. On the 12th the Crown Prince determined to leave only one corps to mask Olmütz and the Austrian entrenched camp. With his other corps he resolved to lean towards his right, and keep open his communications with Prince Frederick Charles. On this day the Guards were at Könitz, the fifth corps at Plumenau. Orders were issued that on the 15th the cavalry reserve by way of Plin, and the first corps from Prosnitz, should make an attack on Prerau, and there cut the railway between Olmütz and Lundenburg. Thus on the 15th, while the main body of the Crown Prince's army was moving southwards by Urtschitz and Ottaslawitz, General Malotki's brigade of the first corps, consisting of six battalions and a 4-pounder battery, was at daybreak to

march to the east of Plumenau, to seize Tobitschau and Traubeck, thus to secure the passages over the Blatta, the March, and the Beczwa, and to hold them until General Hartman's division of reserve cavalry could reach Prerau, destroy the railway, and return. From Plumenau, by way of Prosnitz, to Hrubtschitz is ten miles. Malotki reached the heights of Hrubtschitz soon after six o'clock in the morning. From this position he could see a part of the road from Olmütz to Tobitschau, and on it a heavy Austrian column moving towards the latter place. This was Rothkirch's brigade, in rear of which Benedek, either ignorant of the proximity of the Prussians, or anxious to have a strong force of artillery to cover his left flank, had caused a considerable portion of his artillery train to march.¹ At this time the Prussians were ignorant of what Austrian force still remained at Olmütz, although it was calculated, as was afterwards proved correctly, that forty thousand men could have been moved to Vienna before the railway was broken.

The Austrian troops in front of Malotki, under Rothkirch's command, consisted of the 25th Hungarian regiment, the 7th Hungarian regiment, and one Jäger battalion; in all, seven battalions, which were accompanied by a squadron of Uhlans and three field batteries.

Malotki deployed his brigade on the east of Hrub-

¹ The accounts of the object with which Rothkirch's brigade moved along this road are varied. Some say that he was intended to occupy a position on the rivers which unite near Tobitschau, in order to cover the march of

the main body. Others that Benedek moved him along this route ignorant that the Crown Prince was so close at hand, and committed the artillery train on it because of its being the better road.

schutz towards Wiklitzer Hof and Klopotowitz, with the 44th regiment in the first line, the 4th in the second, and posted his artillery on the left flank of his infantry, just south of Klopotowitz.

The Austrian general brought up twenty-four guns to the hills between the Blatta and the March, and smote with them upon the Prussian flank.

These guns were engaged, but at much disadvantage, by the Prussian battery which was attached to Malotki's brigade. After a short time, however, General Hartman's division of Prussian cavalry arrived on the ground, and reinforced Malotki's guns with two batteries of horse artillery, which took up a position more to the north, and, gradually advancing to the Blatta, in about an hour's time succeeded in somewhat silencing the Austrian pieces.

Already, before the artillery on either side had opened fire, the 44th regiment, which formed the first line of Malotki's infantry, began to advance. The fusilier battalion of this regiment moved against Wiklitzer Hof, the second battalion on its left towards Klopotowitz, and the third battalion between the two others. Without coming into collision with the enemy, these battalions gained the western bank of the Blatta. The river was so deep and broad in consequence of the late heavy rain that it could only be crossed at Wiklitzer Hof, where there were two bridges. Had the enemy occupied these passages, the advance of the brigade would have been exceedingly difficult, perhaps prevented altogether. The fusilier battalion of the 44th, which first passed the stream, came on the further side upon two Austrian

companies, which had been thrown out to cover Rothkirch's right flank. These, on account of some undulations in the ground, had as yet seen nothing of the Prussian advance. They now threw themselves into a small plantation which lay on the south of Tobitschau, and a musketry fight commenced between them and the fusiliers, during which, the first and second battalions of the 44th deployed to the left of the fusiliers. Each battalion threw two companies forward in skirmishing order, and retained its two others as reserves in close column of companies. The 4th regiment, which formed Malotki's second line, crossed the stream after the 44th, with its fusilier battalion leading. Two companies of this battalion were directed to occupy Tobitschau, seize the passage over the March, and to bear upon the Austrian left flank. The rest of the regiment followed the first line.

The main body of the brigade then made an attack against the plantation, but was received with such a heavy fire of artillery and musketry that it reeled under the iron storm. It paused a few moments to steady itself, then, covered by skirmishers, sprang forwards upon the trees. The Austrians, against overpowering numbers, stood their ground with wonderful determination, and it was not till bayonets had been crossed that they quitted the cover. The Prussians halted to rally at the further edge of the wood, while the Austrians drew slowly back along the road towards Olmütz, but lined the ditches in the fields by the wayside with sharpshooters.

All the Austrian battalions had meanwhile formed, and Rothkirch advanced them for a counter-attack, by which

he hoped to recover the wood, and drive the Prussians again over the Blatta. The Prussians awaited their approach till they came within one hundred yards of the trees. Then the needle-gun opened with its deadly rapidity, and with rapid and perpetual volleys broke down the heads of the assailant columns. The Austrian battalions were crushed beneath the greeting, and in partial confusion drew back. The Prussians rallied, and followed them as they retired to some open ground near the village of Wierowan, beside the road to Olmütz.

During the whole of this combat, the Austrian artillery had played upon the Prussian left flank. General Malotki directed two hundred of the 4th regiment to attack the guns in skirmishing order. The biting fire of the sharpshooters, coupled with the salvoes of the Prussian batteries on the west of the Blatta, forced the enemy's pieces to withdraw to a more convenient distance, and Malotki could make his preparations for a further advance.

In the meantime, Hartman's cavalry had not been idle. At the same time as Malotki advanced, on his left flank a Prussian detachment under Lieutenant-Colonel Kehler, who commanded the 1st Royal hussars, was pushed forward from Proznitz, by way of Wrahowitz, towards the village of Dub on the March. This detachment consisted of the 1st Royal hussars, a 4-pounder battery, and one battalion of the 5th Prussian regiment of the Line. East of Wrahowitz, it fell in with the Austrian flanking parties. As these were apparently in much superior force, it retired behind the Wallowa, and from the right bank of this stream its artillery opened a fire which at least

detained some of the Austrian artillery accompanying Rothkirch's brigade in this direction.

On the morning of the 15th July, after Malotki's brigade had marched on Wiklitzer Hof, Hartman's cavalry division of three brigades took post near and behind it, about Klopowitz and Biskupitz. Hartman's three brigades were, the light brigade of Landwehr cavalry, consisting of the 2d regiment of Landwehr hussars and the 1st regiment of Landwehr Uhlans, a light brigade of the Line, consisting of the 2d Royal hussars and the 10th Uhlans, and a heavy, or cuirassier brigade, consisting of the 1st and 5th regiments of cuirassiers.

As Malotki pressed upon the Austrian brigade, and it began to retire from the direction of Tobitschau towards Wierowan, Hartman, in order to harass its retreat, formed the design of passing his cuirassier brigade, which formed his extreme left, over the Blatta, and with it acting against the Austrian right flank. Some officers sent to reconnoitre found that the bridge over the river near Biskupitz was neither held nor had been destroyed by the enemy.

When the 5th Cuirassiers had crossed the bridge and had gained the further bank, it perceived the Austrian artillery train on the road between Olmütz and Tobitschau, which, on account of the action going on near the latter place, had been halted north of Rakodau, and appeared to be without any escort.

Colonel Bredow, who commanded the 5th cuirassiers, sought permission from General Hartman to attack the artillery train. This permission was accorded to him,

not, however, till the Austrian artillery had noticed the Prussian cavalry. The gunners unlimbered, and opened upon the horsemen with shell, but at a long range, for they saw not the 5th Cuirassiers, who were on their own side the stream, but the 1st, who were still near Biskupitz.

Bredow, under cover of some undulating ground, formed his regiment in *échelon* of squadrons, for the attack of the guns. The first squadron he kept towards his right to cover the flank of his attack from any Austrian cavalry which might lie in that direction, the second and fourth squadrons he directed full against the front of the battery, and supported the second with the third as a reserve.

The squadrons moved forward in perfect lines, slowly and steadily at first, seeming to glide over the field, gradually increasing their pace, regardless of the tremendous fire directed upon them, which emptied some saddles. When within a few hundred paces of the battery they broke into a steady gallop, which increased in rapidity at every stride that brought the horses nearer to the Austrian line. All the time of their advance the gunners poured round after round into them, striving with desperate energy to sweep them away before they could gain the mouths of the cannons. Rapid flashes of flame breaking from the mouths of the guns accompanied the discharge of the shells, which were being blurted forth with a nervous haste through the thick clouds of smoke that hung heavily before the muzzles. The flank squadrons, bending a little away from their comrades, made for either end of the line of guns, in

expectation of finding there some supporting cavalry. The two centre ones went straight as an arrow against the guns themselves, and hurled themselves through the intervals between them upon the gunners. Then the firing ceased in a moment, and the smoke began to drift slowly away, but all noise was not hushed ; shrieks from men cut down by the broad blades of the cuirassiers, cries for quarter, the rapid tramp of snorting and excited horses, the rattle of steel, shouts, cheers, and imprecations from the excited combatants, rose up to heaven in a wild medley, along with the prayers which were being offered up by another armed host not many miles distant at Brünn, where on this Sunday the army of Prince Frederick Charles was engaged in a solemn thanksgiving for their hitherto victorious career. Eighteen guns, seven waggons, and one hundred and sixty-eight horses, with one hundred and seventy prisoners, fell into the hands of the Prussian force—a noble prize to be won by a single regiment. It lost only twelve men and eight horses, for the swelling ground and rapid motion of the gliding squadrons baulked the aim of the gunners, who mostly pointed their pieces too high, and sent their shells over the heads of the charging horsemen. Of the eighteen captured guns seventeen were conveyed to Prosnitz. One was too much disabled to be moved.

While the Prussian cuirassiers were engaged in drawing the captured guns to a safe place, a squadron of hostile cavalry deployed from Nenakowitz. Colonel Bredow placed himself at the head of his first squadron, and charged to cover the retreat of his regiment's spoils. This squadron dashed with a heavy surge upon the hostile

ranks. The lighter Austrian horsemen, borne down and scattered by their ponderous shock, broke in wild confusion, could not rally, and were driven far beyond Nenakowitz.

The Austrian infantry still held Wierowan, and was thus in rear and flank of the cuirassiers, who, under the fire of musketry, could not hold their position on the plateau in front of the Blatta, and were obliged for a time to retire towards Klopotowitz.

The village of Wierowan was, however, soon carried by the Prussian infantry, as well as that of Rakodau, which lay behind it. Both places were occupied, and one of the Prussian batteries crossing the Blatta opened upon the retreating Austrians, who drew off towards Dub. About mid-day the combat terminated at this point. But while this action had been going on northwards of Tobitschau, the Prussians had reaped other successes in the direction of Traubeck. The two fusilier companies of the 4th regiment, which soon after the commencement of the action had been directed upon Tobitschau, at that place fell in with three Austrian companies. These they drove out of the town, after a short though sharp engagement, and captured from them several prisoners. Another battalion and the two remaining companies of their own battalion were then sent by Malotki to support the Prussian advance in this direction. They advanced towards Traubeck, and occupied that place without any serious opposition, although some stray detachments of the Austrians were in its immediate vicinity. Under the cover of the garrison of Traubeck, a detachment of Hartman's cavalry advanced against

Prerau. This detachment consisted of three squadrons of the second Royal hussars, the regiment of Landwehr hussars, a squadron of Polish Uhlans, and a battery of horse artillery, and was accompanied by a company of fusiliers, who were quickly mounted on some waggons near at hand. Before Hartman could develop his attack towards Prerau, an Austrian column was seen advancing from Olmütz towards Dub. It consisted of six battalions, a battery, and some squadrons. These had been despatched by the commandant of the fortress to support Rothkirch's brigade in the neighbourhood of Tobitschau. At the same time as these Austrian reinforcements approached the scene of action, Prussian supports were also coming up. General Von Bonin, who commanded the first Prussian corps d'armée, and had ordered Malotki's advance, at the commencement of the engagement, not knowing in what strength the Austrians were, had sent his aides-de-camp to order the remaining brigades of his corps to move on Tobitschau. The commanders of these brigades, hearing the cannonade, had of their own accord moved in the direction of the sound, and the advanced guard, formed of Barnekow's brigade, which mustered six battalions and a battery, had already reached Biskupitz when the Austrian reinforcements from Olmütz came into sight. Biskupitz lies about a mile to the west of Wierowan. The rifled battery of Barnekow's brigade immediately came into action, and fired against the right flank of the Austrian advance. At the same time a battery for which Bonin had sent came up, and, joining the battery Malotki had previously with him, took up a position on the west of the main

road. The Austrian guns advanced to Dub, and there near the church came into action to cover the deployment of their infantry. But the quick handling of the Prussian guns and the advance of Barnekow were too formidable for the sallying troops, and they, without engaging with Malotki, retired again to the fortress.

About five o'clock in the afternoon General Hartman, with his detachment of cavalry, approached Prerau. He found a good ford through the Beczwa near Wichowitz, and passed the stream by means of it, leaving his company of fusiliers to secure the passage. With his horsemen he passed on towards Dluhonitz and Roketnitz. As soon as he had crossed the railway he discovered an Austrian battalion on the west of Dluhonitz, and other detachments of hostile infantry could be made out partially concealed in the ripe corn. General Hartman deployed his cavalry. In the first line he placed the Landwehr hussars and the squadron of Uhlans with the battery on their left flank, covered by the fourth squadron of Royal hussars. The second and third squadrons of the latter regiment formed his second line. As soon as the battery had shaken the detachments of Austrian infantry, Hartman attacked them. In vain the Austrians attempted to form company squares; the horsemen were too quick for them, got among them before their formation was complete, and made a large number of prisoners, but however without very severe loss to themselves.

During this attack a large number of Austrian baggage waggons were hurrying along the road from Roketnitz towards Prerau. Hartman sent his three leading squadrons, under Colonel Glasenapp, against the road to cut

off the baggage trains, and sent away his prisoners with an escort to Tobitschau. The drivers of the baggage waggons, perceiving the threatened attack, began to overturn the carts in the ditches alongside the way. In the meantime some Austrian artillery had come into action on the hills north of Roketnitz, which told with effect on the Prussian troops. At the same time five squadrons of an Austrian cuirass regiment appeared on the left flank of the Prussians, while five squadrons of Austrian hussars also dashed into the field to protect Feldzeugmeister Von Benedek, who with his staff had been mixed up with the escort of the baggage train, and had been personally engaged in the *mélée* with the Prussian cavalry.

Colonel Glasenapp tried to retire, but the Austrian Haller hussars came down upon him, and he was forced to turn to face them. The attack on both sides could only, on account of the standing corn, be made at a trot. The hand-to-hand combat which ensued endured for some ten minutes. Man pressed against man—horse against horse; swords and revolvers were freely used, Glasenapp himself went down, and many of his troopers beside him were borne to earth. At last the relics of his squadrons shook themselves free from the rough embrace of their assailants, and managed to gain a retreat. As far as possible in the time they could spare they broke the railway and the telegraph; and then, recrossing the Beczwa, took up a position on its western bank. The Austrian cavalry did not pursue. Benedek, threatened on his right flank by the approach of the Crown Prince's army, pushed by forced marches towards Vienna, and

Rothkirch's brigade, which had been engaged at Tobitschau, retreated by Kohe, and followed him along the Prerau road. When the Austrian general reached Hradschin he heard that the railway at Lundenburg had been cut by Prince Frederick Charles. He then crossed the Carpathians, and by a flank march down the valley of the Waag, gained Preszburg by way of Tyrnau. Here, on the 21st July, he placed the leading divisions of his army in direct communication with that of the Archduke Albrecht, which was round Vienna.

On the 17th the army of the Crown Prince occupied Prerau, which by that time was entirely deserted by the Austrians. This was the result of the action of Tobitschau, which cost the Austrians about five hundred killed and wounded, five hundred prisoners, and seventeen guns; the Prussians about three hundred killed, wounded, and missing.

The army of the Crown Prince, after the action of Tobitschau, left the fifth corps d'armée to watch Olmütz, and moved in two columns upon Brünn, which place it reached on the 19th July.

CHAPTER III.

FURTHER ADVANCE OF THE PRUSSIAN ARMIES FROM BRÜNN TO THE DANUBE.

WHILE the Crown Prince had moved in the direction of Prerau, Prince Frederick Charles had occupied Brünn on the 12th July. Here the First Army halted on the 15th.

All the 14th the possibilities and probabilities of an armistice and of a subsequent peace were discussed warmly by the officers and soldiers of the Prussian army at Brünn. In every restaurant and in every taproom, over bottles of champagne or flagons of beer, amid the light blue smoke of cigars and the dark clouds of strong tobacco, there was only this one subject of conversation. All kinds of theories were broached ; knots of officers discussed it quietly in the hotels and in their quarters, crowds of soldiers in the streets stopped every orderly to question him as to his knowledge of passing events, or collected round some comrade supposed to have good information, to hear him dilate upon the intentions of the Emperor of the French, of the private views of the Kaiser. But those who really knew what was to happen preserved a profound silence, and nothing was authentically known beyond the precincts of the head quarter-house, and then only to a very few.

In the meantime the advanced guard was ordered to march forward the next morning as far as Moschau, twenty miles from Brünn, on the road to Vienna, and the greater part of the troops who were at Brünn that night were at the same time to move in that direction. But the King remained in the Bavarian capital, and the headquarters of Prince Frederick Charles also halted there another day. The town was still thronged by a multitude of Prussian soldiers, who wandered about idly, looking into the shop windows, or trying to read the notices placarded on the walls in the Moravian dialect. Prussian sentries were mounted on the main guard, and looked out of place by the side of the sentry boxes and door posts painted with the black and gold colours of Austria. In front of the Rathhaus, where the King was lodged, a Prussian guard and numerous sentries had taken the place of the civil watch, who usually stand at the gate of the meeting-house of the Town Council. In front, in the Platz, artillery carriages were closely parked, and were surrounded by the piled arms of a regiment which, billeted in the houses round, had here its place for assembly. Thick crowds of the inhabitants, with soldiers sprinkled among them, stood to listen to the music of a regimental band which, standing between the gate of the Rathhaus and the guns, was playing Prussian airs. Country women with bright coloured handkerchiefs over their heads, and dressed in highly tinted muslins, wandered about the crowd, selling from their baskets gingerbread and sweetmeats to the people and the soldiers equally. The theatre was crowded with uniforms, knots of officers were smoking at every hotel

door, and the whole town was alive with a lazy activity, except where the closed railway station looked down upon the bare line and its deserted warehouses. There were sentinels now upon the Spielberg, and Prussian colours floated from its flagstaff. Numbers of soldiers were leaning against the parapets talking with earnestness, for they were deep in discussion of the probabilities of peace, and questioned every one who came into the fort as to the latest news, half afraid to hear that an armistice was already concluded, and that they would never see the capital of Austria. Nor were the privates alone ill pleased with the prospect of so speedy a peace; the officers wished for the glory of marching into Vienna, and of ending the campaign by the occupation of the enemy's capital; high and low seemed to think that this would only be the just reward of their hard work; and while the younger ones only looked forward to the excitement of entering a large town, and hoped for a little more fighting and higher promotion, those who had planned and carried out the strategy of the campaign regarded the visit of M. Benedetti to head-quarters much in the same light as that in which a skilful chess-player about to check-mate his adversary's king would view the intrusion of an officious stranger, who suddenly stopped the game by sweeping the men off the board and putting them into his pocket.

The order for the march of the troops on the following morning gave rise to hopes that a further advance was actually decided upon.

By the evening of the 14th it was known that the negotiations for an armistice had failed. The Prussians

sent to the Austrians the conditions on which they would agree to a cessation of hostilities, and at the same time stated that no alteration in the terms would be permitted. One of these conditions was that the Prussian army should occupy the line of the Thaya, and consequently have possession of the railway station at Lundenburg. The Austrians sent back a proposal that an armistice should be granted for three days, and during this time that the Prussian army should remain in its actual position. As the acceptance of this proposal would have allowed time for the Austrian army at Olmütz to be withdrawn to the neighbourhood of Vienna, and to be placed across the line of march of the Prussians towards the capital, it seemed clear that the intention of the Austrians was not to conclude peace, but only to gain time for the concentration of their troops. Negotiations were in consequence broken off, and the march southward was ordered to be continued.

All was again activity and excitement in the Prussian army; the whole of the troops who were at Brünn on the 14th, with the exception of one division, marched out on the morning of the 15th, and pushed forwards towards Thaya. The men, refreshed by their halt, equipped anew with supplies of the articles which had been worn out or lost during the late marches and actions, went forth in high spirits, for they thought that now they were certain to reach Vienna. They had no doubt of the result of a battle, if one should have to be fought on the way to the Austrian capital, and their fears that peace might be concluded had been allayed by the news of the failure of the negotiations; for it was known

early on the 15th, that the armistice had not been agreed to, and the intelligence spread quickly from company to company, and from regiment to regiment.

General Von Moltke retired to his quarters, and was closeted with his maps, making new plans for the further progress of the campaign, and for the occupation of Vienna. This skilful strategist, who had been the chief director of the movements by which the three Prussian armies, starting from different points, were collected at the necessary hour on the field of Königgrätz, never, except at that battle, appeared in the front of the armies. Some distance in the rear, sitting calmly at his desk, he traced on the map the course of his troops, and, by means of the field telegraph, flashed his orders to the different generals in more immediate command, with such skill and foresight that not a movement failed, and every combination was made at exactly the right moment. A quick, light-blue eye, a high forehead, and a well-set figure, mark him an intellectual and energetic man, but though quick in action he is so prudent in discourse and so guarded in his speech, that from this quality and his wide knowledge of European languages he is known in the Prussian army as the man who is silent in seven tongues. Careful and laborious, he worked out with his own hand, and himself calculated, almost every detail of the operations in which he took Europe by surprise from the lightning rapidity of his strokes and the tremendous consequences of his dispositions, before which the Austrian army withered away almost before it was gathered together, and which have won for him from his countrymen the title of the first strategist in Europe.

But though General Von Moltke in so short a time deservedly obtained such a high reputation in Prussia, the soldiers and officers of the two armies thought almost as highly of the Princes who have carried out so ably the plans which were formed by the Chief of the Royal Staff. Prince Frederick Charles, with all the dash and fire of a cavalry officer, can equally well lead his squadrons to pursue the broken enemy, and direct with patience his infantry and artillery in an attack against a firm and steady line; but his qualities as a general do not shine out more in the exciting duties of the battle-field than they do in the more tedious and laborious work which is necessary for the comfort of his soldiers in quarters or on the line of march. He has a singular power of making his troops care little for fatigue and hardship; on the line of march he is always with them, and often, from his knowledge of how to deal with his men, can, by a few happy words, close up the straggling ranks of a weary battalion, and send the men forward cheering loudly. In the bivouac often, in person, he inspected the rations and heard the applications of the men for favours or indulgences, and few applied in vain to their Commander-in-chief. He had both the confidence and love of his troops, who regarded him as a skilful leader and a powerful friend.

The Crown Prince, by a series of victories in three successive days, established his title to be considered a general. In the Second Army he was looked upon with the same affection and confidence as Prince Frederick Charles is in the First. By the men of Silesia he was particularly beloved; for he, as a colonel, commanded a

regiment at Breslau, and became well known then to the whole province. Careless of trouble, ever anxious for the welfare of his troops, he visited, personally, billets and hospitals, and took the most kindly interest in every individual soldier. But in the hour of need he did not spare his troops, for his affection for them sprang from a sense of duty and from no mere desire of popularity. The march from Miletin to Königgrätz, and the attack on the Austrian right in that battle which crushed Marshal Benedek's army and shook the Austrian dynasty, say more for his energy in action than could be written in any words.

With such leaders and so well led, with a better arm than their enemies, with every mechanical contrivance which modern science could suggest adapted to aid the operations of the army, it is little wonder that the stout-hearted and long-enduring Prussian soldiers proved victorious on every occasion on which they went into action.

The head-quarters of the First Army were ordered to move forward on the 16th, to Pawlowitz, a small village twenty-five miles from Brünn. The advanced guard, on the 15th, moved upon Möschau; the whole of the army, except one division, which stayed another day here to guard the King's head-quarters, marched to the vicinity of Medritz, and the campaign already recommenced with energy.

M. Benedetti, unsuccessful in his attempt to procure an armistice through the mediation of France, left the Prussian head-quarters on the afternoon of the 15th. He was accompanied by Count Colleredo, an Austrian

officer, who had come in with a flag of truce, and a Prussian staff-officer went with him to take him through the outposts, for he went to Vienna.

The Prussians had now quite got their blood up ; in the army it was regarded as an established fact that the conditions proposed by Austria for an armistice were intended only to gain time to move the army of Feldzeugmeister Benedek from Olmütz to the south, and their national feelings were wounded by the idea that the Austrians should imagine that they could be so easily duped. On the afternoon of the 15th, the patrols of the cavalry of the Prussian advanced guard pushed forward as far as the railway station of Göding, which lies on the line that leads from Olmütz to Lundenburg. When the leading horsemen came in sight of the railway they could distinguish two trains, one close behind the other, with engines puffing and snorting violently, as if drawing a heavy load, steaming slowly in the direction of Lundenburg. There could be little doubt that in these trains were portions of the Austrian army from Olmütz, which were on the way to Vienna. To prevent any more troops from being taken south by this line, it was immediately resolved to break up the line. Some troopers dismounted, a few pickaxes, spades, and axes were found in the neighbouring cottages, and the men on foot quickly set to work, while the others held their horses. There was no Austrian cavalry to guard the line, no infantry picket in the station-house, and the demolition of the line by which alone General Benedek could hope to reunite his army to protect the capital of the empire began without any opposition. Blows fell

heavily on the rails and on the sleepers, the rails were wrenched out of their places, thrown upon one side, and in a few minutes the line was useless for railway traffic. The work was hardly completed when another train came in sight, but before it came up to where the rails were taken away the engine-driver saw the Prussian cavalry, reversed his engine, and the train drew up short, and after a moment's pause began to back slowly in the direction from which it came.

The great problem now for the Prussian staff was to discover how much of their northern army the Austrians had been able to move to Vienna, and how many troops were still in the camp before Olmütz. From the experience of this war many facts have been ascertained relative to the railway transport of troops which were now useful in assisting this calculation. When the Prussians were concentrating their army for the invasion of Saxony they found that it required 100 trains to move a corps d'armée of 30,000 combatants with all its train and baggage, and that it was rarely possible to despatch more than twelve trains a day—so that it required nearly ten days for the movement of a corps. The Austrians, during the concentration of their army, dispatched fifteen trains a day; but at that time they are supposed to have moved with baggage and train complete. On such a pressing occasion as the present, they probably might let the troops move with almost no baggage and little train, and might have managed to dispatch twenty trains per day, for they had most of the rolling stock which used to run upon the line between Vienna and Tünnau by Josephstadt, and

on this calculation 40,000 men could be moved in about six days. This calculation was subsequently found to be correct.

Another fact concerning railway transport dictated by common sense has been fully confirmed by the experience of the German war. Railways in an enemy's country have been proved to be of no use for the transport of the troops of the invader during his advance; the army acting on the defensive always breaks them up, and they cannot be repaired quickly enough to allow of troops being moved by them. But for the carriage of provisions and stores they are invaluable. The more quickly an advancing army can lay down the rails the more quickly can it move forward, and the more free are its motions, for the line of railway is the great artery which leading from the heart supplies the extremities of the army with means of life and action. In laying down the broken lines the band of workmen who accompany the Prussian army were singularly rapid and successful, but quick as they were they were not yet quick enough, for the army transport was conducted by road for some days, even after Prague was occupied, and no enemy on the line stopped the passage of convoys. A broken bridge, even though the breach was but only a few yards wide, caused a dead stoppage in the locomotion, and the time required to shift stores from a train on one side of the impediment to that on the other was very great. An engineer who would find means of constructing rapidly field bridges which would bear the weight of a railway train, would cause an advance in the art of war. The road transport of the Prussian army

was very well organized, but long distances, rapid marches, hilly roads, and accidents, were too much in some cases for even its powers. With each army corps there were five provision columns, in every column there were thirty-two waggons, each drawn by five horses, some spare horses being also supplied to the column to replace animals which may fall lame or get galled by the saddle or collar. These five columns were under the control of the Commissariat, and were never used for any other purpose than the supply of food for the soldiers; the forage for the horses was carried in waggons hired in the country where the war was being carried on, which were also placed under the control of the Commissariat.

Stores of clothing and arms were carried as much as possible by railway, and were brought to the army from the nearest practicable railway station by trains of waggons, which were under the control of the Quartermaster-General; but each battalion carried with it, besides a medicine cart, a waggon for spare ammunition, and an officers' baggage waggon, a waggon which held materials for the repair of clothes and shoes, and which were thus always present with the troops, so that the old proverb that "a stitch in time saves nine" might be, as far as possible, acted upon.

For the transport of ammunition the commanding officer of artillery was entirely responsible; and it was conducted by means of trains of waggons, which were under his sole control. There were nine ammunition trains with each corps d'armée. Each train consisted of thirty-three waggons, and was individually organized so

as to carry ammunition for infantry, cavalry, 4-pounder, 6-pounder, and 12-pounder guns.

A long, hot march, over a road covered deep with dust, which rose in thick stifling clouds from under the horses' feet, and deposited gritty particles in every pore of the skin, brought the head-quarters of Prince Frederick Charles to Pawlowitz, which is about six miles south-west of the town of Auspitz, and about twelve north-east of the railway junction at Lundenburg. This day the army entered a country where the low, rounded hills were covered with vineyards, and from which, as a consequence, trees had almost disappeared. Down by the courses of the streams there were a few pollard willows dotted along the narrow belts of sward which fringed the banks, and some clumps of fir-trees could be made out, stuck like black patches against the blue sides of the Pollauer-Gebirge, which stands up high above the surrounding country ; but everywhere else nothing could be seen except, on the lower ground nearer the water-courses, long stretches of unbroken corn-land, backed on either side by the undulating mounds rather than hills on which the vines twined round their poles, planted in straight lines with a monotonous regularity. The aspect of the little town showed its proximity to the Hungarian frontier. The men, dressed in white trousers gathered tight in below the knees, and contained by a long black boot, with their black jackets trimmed with a bright edging and braided almost like a hussar's pelisse, and with their low broad-brimmed black hat, round which a red riband was bound with the ends hanging down, looked rather like stage peasants, and had little resem-

blance to the heavy bloused vine-dressers that are seen on the banks of the Rhine. The women, with their short bright-coloured skirts, white bodices, and handkerchiefs for the head, kept up the theatrical appearance of the population. The houses were low and small, and not nearly so large as the stable which, without exception, was an adjunct to every cottage. •

On the night of the 16th the First Army had its advanced guard at Lundenburg, and the Duke of Mecklenburg, who commanded it, threw some detachments across the Thaya by means of a pontoon bridge, for the Austrians had destroyed all the bridges which led across the river. General Manstein also threw a pontoon bridge near Wisternitz, and led the sixth division across at that point, and two other divisions crossed the stream a little higher up. The cavalry was at Feldsburg; and the eighth division was at Göding, on the line to Olmütz. The rest of the army was round Pawlowitz.

On the 15th July, the same day that Prince Frederick Charles pushed forward his troops from Brünn and with his advanced guard cut the railway from Olmütz to Vienna, near Lundenburg, and that the Crown Prince's cavalry after the action of Tobitschau cut the same railway near Prerau, Herwarth, with the Army of the Elbe, occupied Znaym, and secured there the passage of the Thaya, the boundary between Moravia and the Crown lands of Austria.

On the 16th, Herwarth was to have pushed his left wing down the Thaya, to assist in cutting the railway. As its advanced guard approached the road from Nikols-

burg to Vienna, it received intelligence that Prince Frederick Charles had already secured the railway, and that Manstein's division of his army was moving along that road. Herwarth, on the receipt of this intelligence, drew his left back to the Znaym road, and pursued his way along it towards the Danube. At Jetzelsdorf the advanced guard of Herwarth's centre, which had been pushed along this road, fell in with the Austrian cavalry of Wallis's brigade. A slight skirmish took place between Wallis's horsemen and the first Prussian light cavalry division, after which Wallis drew his troops off, and the Prussians occupied Hollabrunn, thirty miles south of Vienna. Etzel's division was at the same time directed in a south-westerly direction on Krems, where the Austrians, on its approach, blew up the bridge over the Danube. On the 20th July, Herwarth's outposts were pushed forward to Stockerau, within fifteen miles of Vienna. From the hills near Weikersdorf, the advanced guard first saw the Imperial city, which could be distinguished easily from afar off by the tall spire of the Cathedral of St. Stephen, and the tower of the Castle of Schönbrunn, glittering in the sloping rays of the evening sun. In the foreground, on the Marchfeld, lay the famous villages of Wagram, Aspern, and Eszling, in the midst of rich corn-land and fields of bright poppies, which from the distance looked like pieces of dazzling mosaic let into a golden pavement, fringed by the silver band of the Danube studded with emerald islets. Near the stream were the swelling undulations of the Bisamberg, and beyond the river were seen the purple highlands of Austria, with the heavy masses of the Wiener Wald, while the

dark blue Carpathians bounded the prospect towards Hungary. Such a view was a fitting reward for Königgrätz. No Prussian army, not even that of the Great Frederick, had ever gazed upon the same.

Late on the night of the 16th, it was ascertained that the Austrians had sent forty trains from Olmütz to the neighbourhood of Vienna before the railroad between those towns was broken up by the Prussian cavalry on the 15th. The last six trains were known to have been filled with Saxon troops. It was tolerably certain that all the trains contained infantry only, and that the proper complement of cavalry and artillery to accompany these *foot soldiers* had in all probability marched by road. This being the case, every train was estimated to have carried 1,000 men, so that the Austrian army round Vienna had been reinforced by 34,000 Austrian and 6,000 Saxon infantry, and very likely also by some cavalry and artillery.

Under these circumstances the head-quarters of the First Army were on the morning of the 17th moved forward to the important railway junction of Lundenburg; the cavalry was retained for the morning at Feldsberg; the Army of the Elbe and some portions of the First Army were on the right flank, and the advanced guard was pushed forward a short distance on the road to Vienna. But at the same time the eighth division, which had been detached to the left bank of the March, marched by way of Göding, and occupied Holitsch. From that point this detachment was held able either to combine with the rest of the army in a movement upon Vienna, or to be pushed forward further into Hungary as an advanced

portion of the First Army ; for the previous night information was received by Prince Frederick Charles which showed that the Austrians had been moving troops from the country round Vienna towards Pesth, and it was possible that the regiments taken from Olmütz might have been also sent into Hungary by Preszburg, in order there to concentrate an army for future operations. *If the Austrians had concentrated in Hungary, it is probable that Prince Frederick Charles would have been sent across the Carpathians to act against them there.*

The 17th was a fearfully hot, burning summer day, not a bit of shade was to be found on the road by which the army marched, except where sometimes the way ran close by the side of the Thaya, and a few pollard willows which fringed the edges afforded a moment's relief from the scorching rays of the sun, but not from the dust, which rose in a thick, heavy cloud from the soft deep powder on the road every time a man stepped on it, or a horse, restive from the attacks of innumerable flies, stamped savagely upon the ground. The bright, thick groves of poplars, intermingled with oak, springing from beautifully soft and velvety turf which fringed the further bank of the river, tantalized the troops by their proximity.

At Lundenburg the midday sun was pouring down on the wide, unpaved, dusty streets, and glaring white houses. Von Tümpling's division lay here that day, and the soldiers wandered about slowly, seeking for anything to drink, or for shade from the rays of the sun. Every house was a billet, and the atmosphere of the close, small rooms was stifling, while the sun poured hotly in through the small windows, and made the insides of the

houses almost as hot and more disagreeable than the open. Several of the houses had no roofs, the thatch bore signs of having been recently torn off, and was thrown away to some distance; the bare timbers stood out against the cloudless sky, and some rough, rugged openings made in the walls, which looked as if an unskilful mason had been trying to break down the walls, were in reality loop-holes; for in the evening of the 15th the Austrians held Lundenburg, and meant to fight to keep it.

Here that day were collected Mondel's infantry brigade, consisting of the 12th battalion of Jägers, the 10th regiment of foot (Mazuchelli's), and the 24th regiment of foot (Duke of Parma's), with some artillery and some of the cavalry of General Edelsheim's division. They had orders to hold the town to the last extremity, and they began to make some of the houses into temporary fortresses. The inhabitants, afraid of coming involuntarily under fire, mostly fled, and left their town, expecting never to return and see its houses standing; but before the preparations for defence were concluded the Prussian cavalry had broken up the line at Göding, and the railway junction of Lundenburg had lost its military value. Before, however, the Austrians evacuated the town, Lieutenant Von Radowitz, who had been sent by Prince Frederick Charles to take M. Benedetti, the French Ambassador, as far as the Austrian outposts, arrived with the Minister, at Lundenburg. The Austrians would not allow the Prussian officer to return at once to his headquarters, for fear that he might carry back with him intelligence that the place was being given up, but thought

it necessary that he should follow the Ambassador to Weibendorf; so he was put into the railway and taken to that station. As soon as he arrived there he got leave to return, but, only able to come by road and in a country waggon, he did not reach Pawlowitz, the headquarters of Prince Frederick Charles, till the evening of the 16th. So far the Austrians were successful, for they managed to detain the staff-officer; but long before his arrival at Pawlowitz, Prince Frederick Charles knew of the evacuation of Lundenburg; and the staff-officer, by being taken south among the Austrian troops, saw a great deal which could never have been known at the Prussian head-quarters, had he not been forced to make his involuntary railway journey in the direction of Vienna.

General Von Manstein had occupied Nikolsburg with his division, after crossing the muddy Thaya by a pontoon bridge, which he had to throw across the stream to replace one that had been destroyed by the retreating Austrians. It was anticipated that the boggy banks and unsound sides of the river would cause a good deal of difficulty in throwing the bridge; but if there were difficulties Manstein overcame them, and said nothing about them. But this is no proof that his passage, although unopposed by the enemy, was an easy one, as he was renowned in the army for a quiet determination combined with a high daring, and gave many proofs of both as well in the war with Denmark as in the Bohemian campaign.

A short halt in the hot, bare town of Lundenburg, and then the march was continued to Feldsberg, through the beautifully wooded park of the Prince of Lichtenstein. The cavalry corps moved forward in the evening, and

there were no troops in Feldsberg on the evening of the 17th, except the head-quarter staff, for whom the Prince's large castle afforded plenty of accommodation, and a few battalions who were billeted in the town for the night. The little town nestles round the foot of the castle in a dip in the ground, beyond it to the south rises a gentle rounded elevation, and beyond that lay nothing but flat plains as far as the Danube.

Nothing, on the evening of the 17th, was known of the direction of the morrow's march ; at nine o'clock at night, no orders had yet come from the King, and it was all uncertain whether the First Army was to move on Florisdorf or Hungary. There was a general impression that there would be fighting in a few days. The troops looked forward to the possibility of meeting the enemy with the most perfect confidence of success, and they had every reason to do so on account of both their generals and their arms. It cannot, however, be denied that the army had a most difficult, and perhaps even dangerous, operation before it if it meant to go to Vienna, and the Austrians held fast by Floridsdorf and the Bisamberg. The passage of a river is always a dangerous undertaking, and as the Austrian army from Italy was in Vienna, and garrisoned the intrenchments in front of the Danube, while a strong force of troops was brought from Hungary, whither Benedek was also hurrying, was at Preszburg, the Prussian generals had a piece of work before them difficult of execution.

On the morning of the 18th the sun shone bright and warm on the Schloss and town of Feldsberg. The day seemed likely to be as hot as the previous, and, conse-

quently the march was ordered for the evening. But about two o'clock a sudden change occurred in the weather. The sky became in a few moments covered with clouds, and an extraordinary darkness set in. Up to windward a thick, dense black cloud could be seen bearing down steadily towards the castle ; but not on the sky alone, for like a great volume of heavy smoke it seemed rising from the earth, and filled the air for miles. Nearer and nearer it came. When it got within a quarter of a mile a sudden tempest of wind, which seemed bearing this cloud behind it, burst upon the place. The trees swayed about, rocked by the strong continuous gust, branches were torn off, sheaves of corn were torn up, and taken through the air, the Indian corn and standing crops in the fields were swept down almost level with the ground, and the heavy cloud of dust, which looked in the distance like smoke, was driven about by the wind and whirled up and down in a most fantastic manner. For a few minutes only this tornado lasted, and then was followed by a tremendous downpour of rain, which fell for about half an hour ; but so dry and parched was the ground that though the water come down in torrents it was sucked in in a moment, and when the rain ceased not a puddle stood upon the surface of the thirsty earth.

But the rain laid the dust, and the march was more agreeable than it had been for some days past. The way lay down the valley of the March, which divides the Crown lands of Austria from Hungary. Flat wide-stretching plains lay on the right, in parts covered with standing barley or Indian corn ; in parts black and bleak where the soil had already been turned up and prepared to

take the seed for the second crop ; and here and there, where the corn had been cut, the sheaves, which had been carried hither and thither by the afternoon's tempest, were strewn about in confusion. On the left the sluggish March twisted about in many channels through numerous marshy islets, on which short willows grew densely springing up from sedgy ground, which is covered with beds of tall bulrushes or tangled water plants. Further on the left the blue ridge of the Carpathians stood out against the sombre sky, lighted up here and there by some rays from the watery sun, which, sinking rapidly, had before going down lighted up in the west one small portion of the cloudy sky.

The road lay close along the railway, upon which the officials of the field telegraph division, the principal instrument of the success of the campaign, were riding, carefully inspecting the wires. Every post was looked at, every joint inspected with a careful scrutiny ; but as long as the diligent inspectors could be seen, no break was found which called for the assistance of their workmen, who followed alongside with their waggons filled with tools and materials to repair a flaw, and that night telegraphic communication was open between Prince Frederick Charles at Hohenau and the King at Nikolsburg. And it was required, for the approach to the Danube required new combinations, and again the whole forces of the field were about to be removed in unison by orders flashed from the head-quarters of the King.

When the staff reached Radensburg, a little village about two miles from Hohenau, a Vienna droschky was seen drawn up on one side of the road, with two gentle-

men in plain clothes and wideawake hats standing beside it, chatting quietly with a group of Prussian officers who had their billets in a roadside public-house. A little flag beside the coachman showed that the travellers who had come by the carriage were engaged in some neutral duty, and a footman dressed in livery, with a broad lace band round his cap, who stood with the handle of the carriage door in his hand, showed by his dress that he was the servant of some high official. A nearer approach showed that the travellers were M. Benedetti, the French Ambassador at Berlin, and his secretary, who had gone to Vienna after the unsuccessful attempts to procure an armistice at Brünn, and were now on their way back to the King's head-quarters, which had been established on the 17th at Nikolsburg, in the old castle of Prince Dietrichstein. The King of Prussia during his stay here slept in the same room which Napoleon had occupied in 1805 after the battle of Austerlitz, and before his entry into Vienna on the 9th December.

Prince Frederick Charles dismounted from his horse, and in the middle of the road held a long conversation with the Ambassador. Perhaps they were discussing on that rainy evening, in the middle of the country road, questions which might affect the destinies of Europe—perhaps they were only having a friendly chat. Numbers of suppositions were broached by the officers of the staff, but no one except the two who engaged in that conversation know what passed, for all others drew out of ear-shot as soon as the Ambassador approached the Prince.

The officers of the staff were not so delighted to see

the bearer of news which might possibly lead to an armistice as they would have been to receive him if he had come in a private capacity, for they feared that negotiations might stop the campaign before it found its just conclusion in the occupation of Vienna, and with the feelings of true soldiers they had little sympathy with the diplomacy which might arrest the progress of their armies.

The marches of the 18th were short, for the armies were drawing together, perhaps for the attack of the Austrian intrenched position at Florisdorf, perhaps to force the passage of the Danube at some other point, and the army had to move slowly in order to give General Herwarth time to close towards it from the right, and to let the Army of Silesia come up into line. On the 19th Prince Frederick Charles's headquarters were established at Duernkruth; his advanced guard, with part of the seventh division, that afternoon reached and occupied the railway junction at Gänserndorf, where the lines of Preszburg and Vienna unite. Another portion of the seventh division occupied the passage of the March at Marchegg. The cavalry corps under the command of Prince Albrecht was round the little town of Anger, about five miles north of Gänserndorf. The light infantry division was across the March, and on the road which leads from Holitsch down the left bank of that river billeted in and about St. Johann and Malarzka, while the rest of the army was clustered round the head-quarters of its Commander-in-chief.

The Crown Prince in person this day reached Brünn, but his army was pushing rapidly forward, and the Guards

had already arrived at Lundenburg ; he had left a force to mask Olmütz, but the garrison of that place was not watched by this detachment alone, for Knobelsdorf's troops from Silesia were being pushed on to aid in preventing the occupants of the great fortress of Moravia from making any demonstration against the Prussian line of communications.

It was quite evident from the movements of the Prussian troops that some great operation was meditated, and it was but natural to suppose that the present combinations were being made with the design of striking a heavy blow against the capital of the Austrian empire.

The Prussian cavalry was being collected together into one mass, and when united formed an enormous number of sabres, of which it was expected that some use would be made within the next few days ; for from Gänserndorf to the Danube stretches the wide flat plain of the Marchfeld, on which the Austrian cavalry might have a fair field for action, and where it might strive to regain the world-wide reputation which was so rudely shaken by the charges of the Prussian squadrons in the earlier parts of the war. The Austrians had, in retreating, destroyed the bridges across the March, in order to prevent communication between the Prussian columns which might advance on either bank of the stream. That of Anger had been burnt, and a few charred piles peeping above the water were all that showed where the bridge stood ; but the Prussian engineers had already replaced it by another bridge, made out of such materials as came readily to hand, and had thrown another, supported upon trestles, at Duernkruth, so that by these means

infantry and artillery could cross from one side of the river to the other, and many fords had been found of which the cavalry could make use.

On the morning of the 19th, Count Hasler, an officer of the staff, rode forward beyond the outposts on the northern bank of the Danube to destroy the telegraph which communicates between Vienna and Preszburg. At Gänserndorf he found two cuirassiers, who formed his working party, and picked up a hatchet near a roadside house, which formed the whole of the tools required. When the point at which the wires were to be broken was reached, the chief difficulty of the undertaking was found, for the lines ran along the tops of a succession of bare slippery poles, up which it was very difficult to climb. Several attempts were made to ascend up the pole, but just as the piece of bent iron which supported the porcelain knob round which the lowest wire was turned for a support was reached, arms and legs gave way and the man came sliding down the dry polished wood. At last one of the cuirassiers, making use of his comrade's shoulders as a starting point, began on better terms than before, and got his hand upon the bent iron ; then to haul himself up to the top was comparatively easy, and as he had got the hatchet between his teeth he began to deliver some smart, quick blows upon the uppermost wire. A few strokes severed it, and the two portions of the broken line, parting from each other, came surging down to the ground. The same process was repeated with the others, and in a few minutes, all the wires being broken, the man threw his hatchet to the ground, saying, "There,

they won't be able now to telegraph from Vienna to Preszburg," and came sliding down the post. There was no need to break up the railway, for the Austrians had already blown up the bridge over the March; and if they had not, the Prussian advanced guard had arrived at Günsersdorf, and their outposts were pushed in advance of the railway junction.

Rumours of peace were flying about the camp all the 19th; some people asserted that a three days' armistice had been agreed upon, and that this was the reason that the marches were so short, but that M. Benedetti had terms to propose from the Kaiser. Nothing certain with regard to a cessation of hostilities was yet decided upon, and the shortness of the marches can be accounted for by the necessity of allowing time for the Army of the Elbe to make its lateral movement, and for that of the Crown Prince to come up close to the First Army.

In the army, at this time, no one except those in high command had any idea of whither the next advance would lead: some supposed that the whole Prussian force was to be dashed against the parapets and heavily-armed embrasures of Florisdorf; others that a sudden raid was to be made by a large force into Hungary to beat up the quarters of the Kaiser at Pesth, whither the Imperial family had retired from Vienna. But all feared the results of M. Benedetti's mission, and were much afraid that diplomacy would stand in the way of an entry into the capital of Austria, and would deprive the army of what they considered would be only a just and fitting termination to their rapid but glorious campaign.

A welcome capture had been made by the Commis-

sariat of the First Army by the occupation of Göding, the place near which the cavalry of the advanced guard broke up the railway between Olmütz and Lundenburg on the 15th. Immense magazines of Austrian stores had been found there, and among other valuable commodities about 50,000*l.* worth of cigars, intended for issue to the Austrian troops, which were confiscated for the use of the Prussians, and, in consequence, the soldiers received liberal supplies. They were most grateful, for in the German armies tobacco is considered almost necessary to existence, and in importance as a ration ranks only second to bread or meat.

Head-quarters were established on the 19th at Duernkruth, in a small white Schloss, which afforded the most limited accommodation even for the small number of officers who comprised the head-quarter staff. Few, very few, indeed, had beds; colonels and subalterns lay side by side on mattresses or trusses of straw upon the floor; a few specially favoured had sofas. Among these was Count Stolberg, the President of the Prussian House of Lords, who was with the army as a Knight of St. John of Jerusalem. But all were very cheerful and happy, and would have been perfectly well pleased with everything, except that the younger officers expressed loud wishes that M. Benedetti was anywhere except in the King's head-quarters, for they feared that his presence meant peace, and they wanted more fighting, more promotion, and more glory, and were extremely anxious to march into Vienna. And, although their elders did not express their opinions, it was tolerably evident that in their eyes also the prospect of an im-

mediate peace was looked upon as anything but a blessing. On the further side of the March, which lay about half a mile from the head-quarter Schloss, wide pasture lands, dotted with clumps of willow-trees, stretched over a flat plain, which was raised but a few feet above the level of the water in the river towards the Carpathian Mountains, that rise about fifteen miles to the east. This plain was covered with droves of horses, pigs, and large white cattle, with broad outstretched horns about as large as those of buffaloes. These droves were tended by boys, clad some in proper Hungarian costume, but more frequently in a white flannel cloak, which, hanging from their shoulders down to their ankles, formed their only covering. But, wild though the country might be, the Prussian generals viewed it with favour, for it was generally clear and open, and would be a fair field for their needle-guns and rifle artillery. Over this plain, on the left bank of the March, the eighth Prussian division scoured the whole country between the stream and the mountains.

But it did not seem probable that these weapons would be required till the Prussians advanced on Vienna. No Austrians were reported in front of the outposts, and it appeared that the Archduke Albrecht intended to wait in his works at Florisdorf until the Prussians either attacked him there, or attempted the passage of the Danube at some other point. In the meantime, while the needle-gun was not in active use, its merits formed an endless topic of conversation in the army. Of course, its success had made it a great favourite, and the Prussians, both men and officers, considered the vic-

tories which were won at Gitschin and Podoll by its means to have established its claim to be regarded as the best weapon in existence. It has certainly been most satisfactorily proved that the *zündnadel-gewehr* is better than the Austrian muzzle-loader, but we had a pretty good idea before this war took place that any breech-loader would be a better arm for infantry than any muzzle-loader ; and though the great slaughter of the Austrians in the actions of this campaign brought the fact more forcibly before our notice, nothing has been elicited in the late war to prove that the needle-gun is better or even equal to many breech-loading rifles that have been invented more lately. The success of the needle-gun has established the superiority of the breech-loading over the muzzle-loading principle ; but there are many breech-loaders better adapted for all the purposes of warfare than the needle-gun, and any nation which may arm its troops with a servile imitation of the Prussian arm may probably find that the next European war will show the trouble to have been in vain, and the expenses of the armament thrown away.

Many attempts were made on the afternoon of the 19th to see the Stephanenthurm of Vienna, but the tower could not be seen ; for, although the country is in general flat, many swelling undulations of ground lay between Duernkruth and the capital, which impeded the view. Even from the railway embankment at Gänserndorf it could not be made out, for a rising ground covered with corn lay directly between the village and the city, and a man standing on the embankment was not raised high enough to see over the swell. Nor could a glimpse be

caught of the position of Florisdorf, or even of the Bisamberg, which was also reported to be intrenched, and defended by heavy artillery. The Prussian advance had been so rapid that it was almost impossible to realize that the army was within thirty miles of the Austrian capital, and the troops of the First Army would have been glad of some visible proof which would assure them of its proximity; but as yet they could have none, and many thought that perhaps the first palpable proof of their near approach to Vienna might be the reports of the Austrian guns, which were to dispute the passage of the Danube.

On the evening of the 21st July the Cabinet of Vienna expressed itself willing to enter upon a suspension of hostilities for five days, on the basis of the Prussian proposals, and on the evening of the 22d an armistice for that time was agreed upon at Nikolsburg. It came into effect at noon on the 22d, and was to expire at mid-day on the following Friday, the 27th. But an action was fought on the morning of the 22d, by the seventh and eighth divisions, who moved at daybreak that day on Preszburg, by the left bank of the March. The eighth division had moved down the left bank of that river from Göding by way of St. Johann and Malaczka in Hungary, and on the 21st had neared Stampfen. On the 21st the seventh division crossed the March, at Marchegg, under General Franzecky, who was placed in command of all the troops on the left bank of the stream. Prince Frederick Charles knew that on the 22d General Benedek would throw his leading divisions over the Danube at Preszburg. If then he could seize that

place, the remainder of the Feldzeugmeister's troops would have to make a *detour* by Komorn before arriving at Vienna. The Commander-in-chief of the First Army, not being aware that any decision had been arrived at relative to the suspension of hostilities, on hearing on the night of the 21st that the Austrians were in position to bar the way near the village of Bystenitz, was forced to order General Franzecky to attack them, and so a combat was commenced.

On the evening of the 21st the seventh and eighth divisions, under the orders of General Franzecky, were bivouacked on the road which leads down the left side of the March from Göding to Preszburg, and occupied a position on that road between the villages of Stampfen and Bystenitz, with their advanced guard pushed forward a little in front of the latter village. The Quartermaster-General of the First Army, General Stülpnagel, attended by Count Hasler, of the general staff, had that afternoon been making a reconnaissance of the Austrian positions on the north of the Danube, and arrived in the evening at the bivouacs of Franzecky's divisions. It was soon found that the Austrians held the village of Blumenau, which lies on the same road, about five miles nearer Preszburg, in strong force; and as it was extremely desirable to secure the town of Preszburg as quickly as possible, Count Hasler was despatched to Ebenthal to request Prince Frederick Charles's permission for an attack to be made on Blumenau. The staff-officer reached head-quarters towards midnight. At this time Prince Frederick Charles was ignorant that an armistice would be agreed to, and

he sent back the desired permission. A little after midnight Count Hasler left the head-quarters of the First Army at Ebenthal and started on his return journey, carrying this important order, on which so much might depend. Thirty miles of bad road lay between Ebenthal and Bystenitz; the night was very dark, there was no moon, and clouds shut out even the dim light which the stars might have afforded; but the staff-officer pushed his horse resolutely over the March by the repaired bridge at Anger, along twisting country lanes, past wide ditches and morasses, reached Bystenitz safely at the first streaks of dawn, and communicated the Prince's message to General Franzecky. Franzecky at once made his dispositions for attack. At the same time Prince Frederick Charles sent orders to General Hann to support Franzecky with his division of cavalry.

The road from Bystenitz to Blumenau, which is a distance of about five English miles, runs close below the extreme westerly spurs of the Lower Carpathians, which rise high on the left of a traveller journeying from the former to the latter place. The ground on the right until the road strikes the railway from Gänserndorf to Preszburg is flat and level. The mountains on the left are broken by steep and rough ravines, down which run little rivulets, making their way with perpetual cascades towards the March or the Dänube; between the courses of these rivulets the spurs of the mountains swell out in bluff undulations into the plain through which runs the river March. The ground on the mountain sides is everywhere rough and broken, large stones are scattered over it, and in many places jagged lumps of rock start

out of the soil and form natural fortresses to oppose the passage of troops up the hills. A dense forest of oak and pine trees, which, from being untended, have grown close together, and intertwined their branches so as to form a network of dark-green foliage, through which a man can hardly penetrate, grows upon the sides of the ravines and the less steep spurs of the mountains, and runs up the sides of the hills all the way from Bystenitz to Preszburg. The roads through the wood are few and at long distances apart; none are practicable for any troops except foot soldiers, and only for these when moving with a very narrow front. At Blumenau the road leads to the left, and runs straight to Preszburg through a defile in the hills, being crossed near to this village by the railway which leads from Gänserndorf to Preszburg, and which, after crossing the road, runs along the left-hand side of the latter through the same defile. On the side of the road and railway opposite to Blumenau, and about three-quarters of a mile to the right, lies the little village of Kaltenbrun, situated on rough, broken hills called the Theben-Berger, which are thickly clothed with fir woods, and fill up the whole triangle enclosed between the railway, the March, and the Danube. About three miles from Blumenau, nearer Preszburg, the road and railway, side by side, pass over a little rivulet which supplies the stream to turn the wheels of two watermills—one situated upon each side of the way; above these mills on the left-hand side rises a portion of hill rather higher than the surrounding spurs and less thickly covered with forest, called the Gämsen-Berg; a footpath which leaves the high road at Bystenitz

leads up the mountain side to the left of the road, and after a steep and rugged ascent descends equally roughly, and again joins the main road behind the watermills coming down beside the Gämsen-Berg.

The Austrian position was shrouded by the woods and by the broken ground, but a reconnaissance, made with considerable difficulty, showed that they were in great force. Their centre held the villages of Blumenau and Kaltenbrunn and the ground between, the left was in the fir woods on the Theben-Berger stretching towards the March. Their right extended from the village of Blumenau about half a mile up the lower spurs of the Carpathians. The position was strong and formidable, the ground was extremely favourable to the defenders, and gave no open field for the play of the needle-gun; but Franzecky not only determined to carry the position, but also had the bold design of cutting off from Preszburg and capturing the greater part of the defending force and all their artillery, and in all human probability he would have done so had not the good fortune of Austria brought the combat to a premature close.

General Bose was directed to take two regiments, the 21st and 71st, each of three battalions, making a total force of under 5,000 men—for these regiments had had their ranks thinned by the war—by the mountain path leading from Bystenitz, and gain the rear of the enemy near the Gämsen-Berg, so as to cut off their retreat to Preszburg, while Franzecky himself determined, with the remainder of his troops, to attack the position in front. About half-past four in the morning Bose's

men began their march, and, disappearing into the wood to the left, began their ascent of the difficult mountain path. Their way was long and rugged, so that time had to be allowed them to gain the Gämßen-Berg, and it was not till after six that Franzecky gave the signal for the advance of the troops on the main road.

Then the advance guard began to move briskly forward, and the rest of the little army followed in battle array. Skirmishers pushed forward through the fields on the left, pushing up close to the wood on the mountain side; their supports moved in small clumps here and there behind them; a larger body marched along the road, and behind them, spread out right and left, came the heavy columns of the infantry and the broad-fronted batteries of guns. On the right of the road a squadron of the 10th hussars glided with the cheery noise of clinking sabres and ringing steel over the meadows and flat stubble field, pushing forwards to feel their way scouts, who, carbine in hand, spread, a thin curtain of horsemen, before the main body. Scarcely had the troops begun to move when the morning sun burst brightly from the clouds over the Carpathians, and fell upon the bright swords of the cavalry, the glittering bayonets and rifles of the infantry, and even managed to draw a twinkling reflection from the darkly-browned steel of the artillery guns. The Prussian soldiers greeted it with joy, for their frames were chilled with their night's bivouac, and they marched in the full confidence that before it set it would have lighted them to another victory. Slowly and steadily the columns moved; the men were very silent, for they all felt that stern subdued

excitement which always appears to pervade every breast when a battle is close at hand ; and the sound of the measured tread of the battalions, and the heavy rumble of the guns, rose into the air almost unbroken. The advanced guard, consisting of the 72d regiment, approached to within three thousand paces of the point where the railway, marked by its long line of spectral telegraph posts, could be seen closing into the road from the right, and where the dark green fir-woods behind it showed that there was the Austrian position ; but no signs of the enemy could be seen, except two squadrons of lancers, one considerably in rear of the other, which stood on the level ground to the right of the road in front of the railway, motionless as statues, with the pennons of their lances faintly fluttering in the breeze. Then suddenly the well-known cloud of white smoke, which shows where a gun has been fired, rose from the raised ground between Blumenau and Kaltenbrunn, and a whizzing whistling shell rushed through the air, over the heads of the hussars on the right of the road. The Prussian guns came quickly into action, and opened on the spot where the cloud of smoke had risen, and where, in a few moments, repeated flashes of fire and many more clouds of heavy hanging smoke announced that a strong Austrian battery had its post. While the artillery fight was going on, the dark green hussars on the right began to move quickly forward, and rushed in full career against the foremost squadron of Austrian lancers. These did not stand motionless now. Slowly at first, and then more quickly, they began to advance against the hussars ; and when the two squadrons came within a few

hundred yards of each other, both urged their horses to their utmost speed, and with a mighty clatter dashed together.

The rough embrace lasted but for a moment ; then the lancers scattered and fled, for the hussars were stronger and better mounted, and their mere weight smashed the lancers' ranks. These pursued a short distance, capturing several prisoners ; but they could not follow far, for the other squadron of lancers looked threatening, and the hussars had no reserves near at hand. The cavalry combat, though so short, was severe ; many men were down on both sides, and Major Von Hymen, commanding the hussars, had the whole side of his face laid open, but refused to quit the field, and commanded his squadron throughout the day.

In the meantime the cannonade increased in the centre, more Prussian guns were brought into action, and more Austrian pieces were firing between Blumenau and Kaltenbrun ; and at eight o'clock, when the action had lasted about an hour, forty Austrian and thirty-six Prussian guns were pounding against each other. Casualties began to increase ; one Prussian battery in particular was rapidly being unhorsed, for the Austrians were making good practice, and their shells were generally bursting at the proper moment.

Half an hour later an officer arrived from Prince Frederick Charles to announce that an armistice was agreed upon, and that it was to commence at mid-day ; but Franzecky could not stop the fight, for Bose was with his brigade committed in the mountains, and if the grand front attack ceased he would probably before noon

be captured. But no infantry was sent forward, and the combat was confined to artillery fire alone for more than two hours.

Then Franzecky, fearing for Bose, determined to attack the Austrian position with energy, and made his dispositions for a general advance. General Gordon, with four battalions, was ordered to move by a mountain path, which, leaving the road near where the artillery was at present, runs lower down the hills than the way taken by Bose, and comes out on the road again near Blumenau; when he felt the Austrian right, he was to attack it with vigour and occupy the village of Blumenau. At the same time, two battalions were sent against the fir-woods near Kaltenbrun to attack the Austrian left, and, if possible, to seize that village, while the main body and the artillery were to move straight against the front.

The guns were limbered up; the two battalions began moving over the plain towards the wood of Kaltenbrun; Gordon was already on the hill-side, and the main body advanced for about one thousand paces, when the guns, again unlimbered, came into action, and renewed their fire on the Austrian batteries. About eleven o'clock the two battalions came within easy distance of the wood near Kaltenbrun, and were received by a biting fire from the Austrian sharpshooters among the trees, while to the rear of the guns between Blumenau and Kaltenbrun they could see heavy masses of infantry ready to resist the front attack. The Prussian battalions immediately opened out and began to fire against the infantry in the wood; but the trees hid their antagonists, and they did not seem to cause much diminution of the fire from the forest.

In the meantime a message came from Bose to say that he had debouched on the Gämsen-Berg, and had there met the celebrated Austrian Schwarz and Geld brigade. A severe fight took place here ; the Austrians poured volley after volley into the head of Bose's column as it attempted to come out of the trees, and so tangled was the jungle that the Prussian marksmen could hardly force through it in order to spread out on either side and open fire against the Austrians. But after a time they succeeded in penetrating through the thick trunks and interwoven branches, and the Prussians debouched and deployed on the Gämsen-Berg. Still the fight went on, but the Austrians were driven back step by step, and at last Bose seized the water-mills and planted his brigade across the road and railway to Preszburg, sending a messenger to General Franzecky to say that the enemy's retreat was cut off, and that now the front attack might be pressed hard. It was the receipt of this message that caused Franzecky to order the general advance, but before the combat could be finished the laurels that he would have gained by the capture of the enemy, which would have certainly been the result of his skilful dispositions, were snatched from his grasp.

Time was getting on ; and before the front attack was developed, the sun, standing high up in the heavens and directly south, showed that mid-day had arrived. In a few minutes an Austrian officer came out from the Blumenau position with a flag of truce, and advanced towards the Prussian lines. He was met by a Prussian officer, to whom he reported that an armistice had been agreed upon, to date from mid-day, and that it was

already past the hour. In a few minutes the signal to cease firing was sounded along the Prussian ranks, and the combat was broken off. The sudden silence was curious and abrupt; there were none of the dropping shots or single occasional reports in which a cannonade generally dies away; in a moment the roar of the artillery and the patter of small arms ceased, and a curious hum of conversation rose from the astonished soldiers.

At first the Austrians would not believe that their retreat was cut off, and that they had been in such imminent danger of being captured, for no report had been sent up from the rear, and they still thought that they commanded the road to Preszburg. But they were soon convinced that they were really surrounded, when, on sending back, it was found that Prussian troops were drawn up across the only line of retreat for their artillery.

The Austrians lost in the combat between five hundred and six hundred men, of whom one hundred were taken prisoners, and over three hundred were wounded. The Prussian loss was reported only one hundred killed and wounded.

To speculate on what would have been is generally unprofitable, especially so in war; but as the Austrians fully acknowledge that they were only saved by a lucky fortune from a terrible disaster, it may not be too much for impartial observers to believe that the action was virtually gained by the Prussians, and that if it had continued all the Austrian artillery must have been taken, and probably the greater part of their infantry captured; for there is no road except the one occupied by Bose by

which the guns could have been withdrawn from Blumenau ; and though there is a rough country lane by which men on foot could from Kaltenbrunn reach the banks of the Danube, it is extremely doubtful if the Prussians would not have been in Preszburg before the Austrian infantry could have gained that line by this roundabout route, and then their capture was certain.

The number of men engaged on each side was about equal. The Prussians had two divisions, which together consisted of twenty-five battalions, in the field, with forty-eight guns, but twelve of these were always in reserve. The Austrians had the 1st, 2d, and 4th brigades of their second corps d'armée and Mendel's brigade of the tenth corps engaged, and had forty guns.

Had this action been allowed to proceed, and had it been a victory for the Prussians, it would have been won, not by the needle-gun so much as by the brilliant dispositions made by General Franzecky for turning his enemy's right flank. This was confessed by an Austrian officer, who, talking to a Prussian officer after the armistice was declared, said, " Your needle-gun may be a terrible weapon, and we know by experience how well it shoots ; but it has not been so bad for us as your generals, who have a most diabolical power of manœuvring."

Directly the action was over, General Stülpnagel and Count Hasler rode into Preszburg to settle with the commandant of that place the line of demarcation which should be observed by the troops during the armistice. The Prussian troops were all in front of the line that was agreed upon, and ought, according to the strict letter of the law, to have withdrawn at once, but it was late in

the day when the line was fixed. The Austrian officer consented that for the night the Prussians should remain where they were, and retire to their new ground in the morning.

Then occurred a curious scene. The men of Bose's Prussian brigade, who had been planted across the Preszburg road, and a few hours before had been standing ready, rifle in hand, to fire upon the retreating Austrian battalions, were surrounded by groups of those very Austrian soldiers whom they had been waiting to destroy. The men of the two nations mingled together, exchanged tobacco, drank out of each other's flasks, talked and laughed over the war in groups equally composed of blue and white uniforms, cooked their rations at the same fires, and that night Austrian and Prussian battalions lay down bivouacked close together, without fear and in perfect security.

On the morrow all along the line of the front of the Prussian army the divisions took up the positions they were to occupy during the temporary peace.

Early on the morning of the 22d, commissioners from the Austrian and Prussian armies had a meeting at a small village between Gänserndorf and the Danube, in order to decide upon a line which should, during the armistice, form the boundary between the troops of the two nations. The Prussian commissioners were General Von Podbielsky, of the King's head-quarter staff, and Major Von Capprivi, of the staff of Prince Frederick Charles; their colleagues from the Austrian camp were General Von John and some of his assistants in the Austrian head-quarter staff. After some hours of consultation the line of demarcation was decided upon. It

started on the Prussian right at Krems, on the Danube ; followed the north bank of the river down as far as Stockerau ; from that town ran up the curve of the Gollsbach rivulet to the neighbourhood of Fellabrun ; then, by taking a line to the village of Weinsteig, it struck the Rossbach rivulet close to that village, followed this stream as far as Leopoldsdorf, then ran along the road between that village and Lasse, and was then drawn along an imaginary straight line to the railway bridge over the March, near Marchegg. On the left side of the March a straight line from the railway bridge carried it to the village of Bistritz, whence it followed the eastern edge of the Fahren Wald till it struck the main road from Skalitz to Tyrnau. It was further agreed that commanders of detachments and of troops left to mask fortresses should decide with the commanders of the troops opposite to them upon the lines of demarcation to be observed in the vicinity of their own commands.

The Prussian cavalry corps, under the command of Prince Albrecht, was pushed forward to the line of the Roszbach, and had its head-quarters in the neighbourhood of Deutsch Wagram, whence the fortifications of Florisdorf could be seen, but their details could not be made out.

While the action of Blumenau was actually being fought, General Degenfeld and Count Karolyi, the former Austrian Ambassador at Berlin, crossed the space between the outposts on the other side of the March, and went to the King's head-quarters, empowered by the Austrian Government to conclude a treaty of peace.

At the time of the suspension of hostilities, the Prussian

armies on the Marchfeld and between Vienna and Brünn consisted of the three corps of Prince Frederick Charles, the cavalry corps of Prince Albrecht, three divisions under General Herwarth, and three and a half corps under the Crown Prince. These formed a force of about two hundred and sixty-five thousand combatants. Behind these lay the first reserve corps under General Mülbe at Brünn, half a corps from the Crown Prince's army in front of Olmütz, and near the same fortress Knobelsdorf's corps, forming together an additional force of about fifty-five thousand men. The corps of Knobelsdorf had occupied the Austrian town of Troppau on the 9th July, and had then been pushed forward to observe Olmütz and garrison the line of railway to Brünn. Count Stolberg was left in Silesia with about ten thousand men to watch the Austrian detachments in Galicia. The division of Landwehr of the Guard was in Prague. Detachments of Landwehr held Saxony, and garrisoned the capital and fortresses of Prussia.

On the western theatre of war, Manteuffel had sixty thousand men in the field. The Grand Duke of Mecklenburg had about twenty-five thousand. Five thousand men held Frankfort and Hanau, and Landwehr garrisoned Nassau, Hesse-Cassel, and Hanover. In all, Prussia had at the lowest computation five hundred and twenty thousand fighting men in the field—a stupendous force to be supplied by a country which with its allies did not possess a population of twenty million inhabitants. Besides these, there were depôt and garrison troops retained in the provinces, which numbered at least one hundred thousand additional soldiers.

CHAPTER IV.

THE TRUCE.

DURING the armistice of five days, the Prussian troops remained in the Marchfeld.

On the morning of the 23d, the troops who had been the previous day engaged in the combat of Blumenau marched back to their positions on their own side of the line of demarcation which was to be observed by the Prussians during the armistice. Between this line and that up to which the Austrian outposts were pushed forward extended a narrow belt of neutral ground, on which the soldiers of either side were forbidden to tread, and where the labourers were cutting the corn and carrying in the harvest as peaceably and diligently as if there was no enemy in their country, and no Prussian vedettes were posted along the course of the Roszbach. The troops, not ungrateful for a little idleness after their hard work, lay billeted in the villages between Ebenthal and the line of demarcation, knapsacks were unpacked, and their motley contents laid out on the banks by the roadside to be dried and aired in the sun. The artillery ammunition went under a careful inspection; groups of soldier-tailors sitting together under the trees patched up holes made in uniforms either by the wear and tear of the

campaign, or by the too near approach of a bullet or the splinter of a shell. Everywhere through the cantonments there was a listless, idle air of careless comfort and rest, such as can only be thoroughly appreciated by those who have been marching and fighting for weeks past under a burning sun or heavy soaking rain; except where the sentinel paced up and down before some cottage improvised into a guardhouse, where the regimental colours were deposited, or where the vedette sat mounted, with pistol in hand, peering as carefully towards Florisdorf and the Danube as if there were no truce agreed upon, and as if he expected every moment to have to give the signal of the approach of the enemy's columns. No one who bore any look of being a spy was allowed to pass either out of the lines or into them, and so suspicious were the sentries that the country people going out to or returning from work had to give satisfactory accounts of themselves before they were allowed to pass. The Austrians were equally careful on their side, so that no communication could take place with Vienna; and the Stephanenthurm, which looked down on the city where so many would like to go if only for an hour, only tantalized those who could see it from the line of outposts, and drew forth many exclamations of impatience from those who fretted and fumed at being tied down to the flat plain of the Marchfeld, in the very sight of the capital, where many little luxuries which were greatly missed and wanted in the army could so easily have been purchased.

In the meantime the military authorities were not idle in their preparations for the continuance of the campaign,

in case the diplomatists, who were working in mysterious silence at Nikolsburg, should fail to come to terms upon the conditions of peace. The railway was crowded with trains all the way from Görlitz to Lundenburg, which were bringing up reserves, heavy guns, stores, pontoons, and all the other materials which would be required for the passage of the Danube. The armistice had not done the Prussians much harm, even if the war should have broken out afresh, except by stopping the action of Blumenau, for they would probably have had to pause in the middle of active operations to await the arrival of their siege guns and their bridge material, even if there had been no suspension of hostilities ; and the five days which gave rest to the battalions in the front of the army also afforded time to get forward the immense train of boats, pontoons, and planks which the engineers would have required if they had been called upon to throw bridges across the broad, rapid stream which flows between the Marchfeld and Vienna, although the Danube is not so difficult to cross as most rivers with an equal amount of water, for it is broken up into many channels, enclosing numerous islands which much aid the construction of a bridge.

Now in the different billets many stories were related of individual prowess and personal bravery during the campaign. There was not a battalion or a squadron which had not its special hero, about whom some particular anecdote was recorded ; no two opinions were stated concerning the organization and equipment of the different branches of the army from those who have had the most practical proofs of the working of them, by

being dependent upon them in the real work of war. There were no grumblers ; and though the staff officers, who observed carefully every incident of the campaign, with a view to profit by its experience for further improvement and for further progress, had noted many things which were changed or adopted as soon as peace gave time and opportunity, the regimental officers were well content with everything, and were ready to stand or fall by their conviction that the Prussian army was the most smoothly-worked piece of machinery in the whole world. It was curious to find from those who had taken part in the cavalry fighting that the epaulette, which has of late been discarded in many armies as a useless incumbrance, had again risen into high favour. None of the Prussian cavalry wore their epaulettes on service except the Uhlans, but some officers of these regiments spoke most highly of the good service the little plates of shoulder armour had done in warding off sword cuts. The cuirass, too, proved more useful in close encounter than most people would have given it credit for, and was in more than one case the instrument of saving a man's life, and yet the Prussian cuirasses are thin, ill made, and ill fitted in comparison with those of the British Household Cavalry. Still, there was a strong party against this defensive armour, for many in the army held that its use does not repay the extra weight it puts upon the horse, but this party was for the present silenced by the great success which the 5th regiment of Cuirassiers, attached to the Crown Prince's army, had lately been in the combat near Tobitschau, where it took seventeen guns.

The needle-gun was of course an immense favourite, and the Prussian officers justly held that an army provided with a muzzle-loading arm can never hope to stand up to their troops in the shock of open battle ; but their conclusion that the needle-gun is the best possible breech-loader was founded on nothing more than the fact that it is superior to a muzzle-loading rifle, and they advanced no good grounds for supposing that no breech-loader has been invented since the introduction of the needle-gun into the Prussian service, which can be superior to the arm that did such fearful execution in the Austrian ranks at Podoll, and in the actions before Gitschin.

The Prussians entered upon the campaign with their horse artillery armed with smooth-bore 12-pounder guns. They had long before the armistice bitterly repented this error, and will take care to remedy it before they are embroiled in another war. The whole of their field artillery is to be armed with steel breech-loading rifled guns constructed on Krupp's system—good ordnance doubtless, but the Prussian guns did not appear in action to make such good practice as the Armstrong guns did in China, when the English gunners were still unaccustomed to them, and as yet looked upon all breech-loading ordnance with considerable suspicion.

The Prussians on the 24th commenced massing troops towards the left of their position, with the view of being able to make an immediate dash on Preszburg on the afternoon of the 27th, if peace should not be concluded during the time that the armistice lasted ; but most in camp looked upon this concentration as a needless precaution for it was considered that peace was perfectly

certain. But neither the staff nor the outposts were prevented by this feeling of certainty from using all precautions from being taken unawares; the railway still teemed with trains loaded heavily with troops and stores.

No news could be obtained of how the negotiations were going on at Nikolsburg, for the diplomatists preserved the correct diplomatic silence, and took care that the *profanum vulgus* should gain no clue either to the progress or probable result of the discussions held at their mysterious meetings. Rumours, of course, were rife, and all of them prophesied peace; some went so far as to assert that the treaty would actually be signed on Thursday, the 26th; but how far such reports were to be trusted could not be established, as popular opinion was now swayed about in the most extraordinary way. The sudden glance of a Minister, or the wearied look of a Plenipotentiary, was interpreted according to the inclination of the observer, and had some deep meaning attached to it, possibly very remote from what it might really signify.

Nothing was doing at head-quarters, so a party of officers of the staff was made to visit the outposts, partly for the sake of something to do, partly in hopes of being able to catch some glimpses of the fortifications round Florisdorf, which are rapidly becoming famous. A ride of fifteen miles over the flat, wide-spreading Marchfeld, carpeted with meadows, clover-fields, and broad belts of stubble, from which most of the corn had been removed, past dark woods of fir and lighter copses of dark oak, took them to Wagram. More than once some one ex-

claimed, "What a beautiful battle-field for cavalry!" as they rode for miles over ground unbroken by fences or brooks, and in which the only obstacles to the free gallop of horses were a few small ditches, and here and there a tiny bank.

The village of Wagram, celebrated by the battle won here by the first Napoleon, contains a chapel where are collected many of the arms that were found on the field after that great fight. A strange feeling of awe comes upon one when brought face to face with these truest monuments of the great conflict waged here by the mighty dead; and the loud talk and laughter of careless soldiers fresh from a field of battle, and reckless of how soon they might march to another, were hushed, not more by the sanctity of the place than by an almost involuntary reverence for the visible memorials of the great battle and of the warriors who fell in it. But disappointment has also its place in the mind; for how clumsy, how old-fashioned, according to our ideas, look those old flint muskets and heavy swords with which but a few years back the fate of Europe was decided! Could the question fail? Shall we to our successors in the next generation appear to have known so little of what science has in such a short time developed, and to have been so ignorant of mechanical appliances, which, when once unfolded, appear so simple and so palpable? And another thought came into every mind, which struck home to the heart; for it told that in a few short years those who had fought at Königgrätz and survived the long summer day's slaughter on the Sadowa hill would individually be equally lost to memory as those who fell at Wagram—

their names mostly unknown, their private deeds unrecorded by any historian.

About two hundred yards south of the village of Wagram lies the watercourse of the Roszbach rivulet. This world-known brook is about ten feet wide and fifteen feet deep. With sharp sides cut almost straight down, and the earth thrown up on either bank to form dikes which prevent its winter floods from inundating the surrounding country, it looks more like a huge artificial drain than like a natural rivulet. Along its banks grow rows of pollard willows, closely planted together, which formed a grateful shade from the burning July sun. The road which leads to Florisdorf crosses the brook by a slight wooden bridge which could be destroyed in a few minutes by the pioneers of a single battalion. On the Wagram side of the bridge were two vedettes from Hohenlohe's fine regiment of Uhlans, crouching for shade under the willow-trees, but steadily gazing out towards Florisdorf, though not an Austrian vedette could be seen, for they were all hidden by trees.

But, though no enemy was in sight, a view was there which well repaid the long ride, and which even the soldiers, accustomed as they had been to marching through fine scenery, were admiring to each other. On the right lay the rounded hill of the Bisamberg, studded with vineyards, corn-fields, and woods, among which vain search with glasses was made to discover any signs of the hostile batteries. Beyond the Bisamberg could be seen the narrow gorge from which the Danube issues, and further still the rough rugged recess of the hills above Klosterneuberg, rising steeply up from the water's edge,

with their summits capped with heavy masses of dark green foliage, and their sides sprinkled over with fir-trees. A little to the left, and at the foot of the hills, the city of Vienna lay sparkling in the sun ; the tops of the steeples and the roofs of the houses glittered in the bright flood of light, but not too powerfully, for the air between Wagram and the town seemed converted by the heat into a heavy transparent ether, which spread a halo round the city. In the foreground, a little to the left, a high church spire, surrounded by tall poplar-trees, showed the situation of the village of Florisdorf ; but no intrenchments could be seen, no working parties could be discovered ; they were all hidden by a long gentle wave of the ground, which would not have been noticed except because it excluded from the view. Far away on the left front spread the Marchfeld, beyond which could be seen the dim blue line of hills which gird the valley south of the Danube, while directly to the left the dark Carpathians towered up to the sky, and the gap between the Theben-Berger and the main ridge showed where the road ran to Preszburg, and pointed out the situation of the village of Blumenau, the scene of the combat of the 22d.

After a long and fruitless search among the poplar-trees for any signs of intrenchments, during which heaps of earth were pointed out as redoubts, which may have been or may not, the officers turned to ride down the Roszbach. The brook was almost entirely dry ; here and there for a few yards a thin sheet of water a few inches deep covered the soft muddy bottom, and gave a refuge to flocks of mud-bedaubed ducks, but in general the mud

which forms the sole of the watercourse lay exposed to the sun, and was dried and broken into cracks and fissures, which ran into each other, forming a tracery not unlike hieroglyphic writing. All along the brook were constant vedettes, all hidden in the willows on the bank, which the conditions of the armistice had declared to be for the present Prussian ground. The sound of horses' feet coming along drew the sentries out of their ambush far enough to let them be seen, but as soon as they saw the uniforms of the Prussian staff-officers they resumed their steady stare to the front, retiring into the shade, and let the officers pass them as if they were not aware of our existence ; for outlying sentinels pay no compliments in the presence of the enemy.

The Prussian armies were by the 25th drawn close together, and, concentrated in one huge mass, lay like a crouching lion, ready to spring upon the Danube, should the negotiations for peace fail, and the orders for an advance be flashed by telegraph from Nikolsburg to the different commanders. The First Army, under Prince Frederick Charles, was close up to the Roszbach and the line of demarcation, with a strong corps on the left bank of the March to guard its flank or form its advanced guard as might be required, in case the signal should be given to move forward. General Herwarth, with the Army of the Elbe, was on the right, perhaps with the object of crossing the river at a lower point of its course. The Crown Prince was in rear of the first, ready to move in any direction which occasion might require.

On the 27th, at mid-day, the armistice would expire, and, in case that it should not be prolonged, or prelimi-

naries of peace were not agreed upon by that hour, the Prussian troops were on the 26th held in readiness to march at the shortest notice. If an advance had been made, there can be no doubt, from the positions of the different divisions, that the great attack against the line of the Danube would have been made towards Preszburg; probably, at the same time, a demonstration might have been made towards the Prussian right, and a false attack directed on Florisdorf, in order to retain the garrison in their fortifications. The action of the 22d, which at the moment of certain victory for the Prussians was interrupted by the armistice, had shown the Austrians where the chief attack could be made, and the Prussians thought that by the 27th the position of Blumenau would in all likelihood have been artificially strengthened, and the road by which Bose advanced and gained the rear of the villages would certainly be watched on a future occasion. Yet, though there could be no hope of succeeding so suddenly as on the 22d in gaining the command of the defile which leads to Preszburg, and though there was no chance, as would probably have been the case if the previous Sunday's action had continued, of driving the enemy so quickly through the town as to prevent him from destroying the bridge, the advantages to be gained from attempting to pass the Danube at Preszburg were so great, that an attempt would probably have been made to force the defile and to secure that town. The fortifications of Florisdorf, a part of which could be seen from the church-tower of Wagram, shut out the access to such a broad piece of the river bank that very different measures had to be taken for securing the passage than

would have been most expedient, if no intrenchments had covered the approach across the flat plain from Wagram and Aspern. The portion of the works which could be seen through the clear air from the church spire embraced four redoubts on the Bisamberg hill, and three on the flat ground between the Bisamberg and Florisdorf; there was also another work on the hill to guard the left flank of the position, which lying more towards the river could not be seen from Wagram.

The Prussian cavalry had gained much from the rest afforded by the armistice; fatigued by long marches through the Moravian highlands, and stinted for forage, it had a sufficiently long period of repose when the army halted at Brünn to restore it to the splendid condition in which it entered upon the campaign; but the long rest in the Marchfeld had done it an immensity of good, though even here forage had not been plentiful. Notwithstanding small rations, the horses had profited by their rest, for time had been given to replace their worn-out shoes, and to afford relief to chafed backs caused by the late long marches. The troopers were in high spirits, for they had overcome the famed Austrian cavalry in several encounters, and now claimed a higher reputation than that which for several years past had been accorded to their antagonists. The failures of the Austrian cavalry in their encounters with the stronger and better-mounted horsemen of Prussia had not so much astonished the thinking officers of this army as had the singularly little use which General Benedek had made of his light horse. Although operations had been conducted in its own country, where every information concerning the

Prussian movements could have been readily obtained from the inhabitants, the Austrian cavalry had made no raids against the flank or rear of the advancing army, had cut off no ammunition or provision trains, had broken up no railway communication behind the marching columns, had destroyed no telegraph lines between the front and the base of supplies, had made no sudden or night attacks against the outposts so as to make the weary infantry stand to their arms and lose their night's rest, and, instead of hovering round the front and flanks to irritate and annoy the pickets, had been rarely seen or fallen in with except when it had been marched down upon and beaten up by the Prussian advanced guards.

Yet the Prussian cavalry had in many cases lost severely in the campaign, especially the 3d regiment of Dragoons. This regiment suffered fearfully from its rough hustle with the Austrian cuirassiers at Königgrätz, and now mustered but half the men and horses with which it entered upon the campaign. More than half the officers and quite half the men who followed across the Bohemian frontier the standard which has been cherished in their regiment since the year 1704 are now lying under the earth of Lipa, or were in the hospitals of Turnau and Görlitz, for this was the regiment which dashed against the heavy mass of cuirass horsemen who sacrificed themselves to cover the retreat of the Austrian battalions, and it supported its character for dashing courage at a tremendous cost. Very many of both the officers and men who were not now in the ranks were victims to terrible sword cuts, which, coming down upon

the shoulder, cut clean through the shoulder-blade, and often deep down into the body — awful memorials of the strength of arm of the Austrian horsemen. Much did the officers of this regiment complain of the absence of epaulettes, which they estimated would, by defending the shoulder, have saved half the men they had left behind them—a complaint which was to some extent borne out by the fact that the ultimate overthrow of the cuirass regiments of Austria was due to the arrival of some of Hohenlohe's Uhlans, who took them in flank. Then, though the heavy horsemen turned upon Hohenlohe's men, their swords were shivered upon the brass plates which lay upon the shoulders of the Uhlans, for these, unlike the rank and file of the rest of the Prussian cavalry, carried epaulettes, and though the blows were aimed at the head, the smaller object was nearly always missed, and the sharp edge descended only to be dented or broken upon the protected shoulder, while the Uhlans, with their lances held short in hand, searched out with their spear-heads unguarded portions of their antagonists' bodies, or, dealing heavy blows with the butt ends of their staves, pressed through the thick ranks of the heavy horsemen, marking their track with great heaps of dead, dying, or wounded. On the evening of the 26th, there was still no definite news from Nikolsburg, but every rumour which arrived from head-quarters pointed more and more to peace ; still the army was held in readiness to move, and the *officiers d'ordonnance*, or "gallopers" as they would be termed in the vernacular of Aldershot, were ordered to be prepared to start with orders to the different divisions at three in the morning.

The preliminaries of peace had been agreed upon at Nikolsburg on the evening of the 26th, and the war was certainly at an end as far as Austria and the North German States were concerned. Late on the night of the 26th, a courier arrived from the King's head-quarters at Nikolsburg, bringing a letter from General Von Moltke to Prince Frederick Charles, which gave no details and no information as to the conditions of the peace, but said simply that a glorious peace had been arranged. The news spread in a moment, and suddenly all was changed. In the evening information was being obtained about the strength of the Austrian position at Florisdorf, the preparations to guard the defile which leads to Preszburg, the nature of the bridges over the Danube, or the chance of Edelsheim's cavalry coming forward to break a lance in the Marchfeld. On the morning of the 27th, these things were held of no account : no one would have cared to hear accurately where every battalion and every gun was posted in the Austrian lines ; the number of Edelsheim's sabres and of the Archduke Albrecht's corps were alike disregarded ; no one would have cared to hear how many of the regiments from Italy were actually in Vienna, and the intrenchments of Florisdorf were considered a matter of history. These who the previous night seemed to have no thought but of battle, promotion, and an entry into Vienna, could speak on the 27th of nothing but home, and hardly thought of anything except their speedy return to Prussia. Now and then a faint discussion arose on the subject of the conditions of peace, but so little was known in the army, and so many reports were flying about, that these soon subsided,

and gave place to conversations about home and home friends.

Though peace had been actually decided upon, no one connected with the army was able to go across the two miles of neutral ground which separate the Prussian from the Austrian outposts, so that there was almost no communication with Vienna.

The great desire of marching into the Austrian capital had melted away under the genial influence of certain peace, and there had sprung up instead a feeling of satisfaction that it was not necessary to humiliate Austria so far; for of a sudden all the affection for their old comrades of the Danish war, which had lain latent in the hearts of the Prussian soldiers during the campaign, had again burst forth into life, and there were prevalent in this army almost a kindly pity for the misfortunes of those who but on the yesterday were regarded as deadly enemies. The soft, stout hearts of the Prussians were easily turned from anger to sympathy, as was so often shown by their tender treatment of the Austrian wounded. During the armistice there was a feeling of suspicion that the Austrian diplomatists would be shifty, and break off the negotiations as soon as their troops were concentrated. This feeling, combined with a desire of mere glory, made the armistice very unpopular; but now that it had been proved that the Austrians were really honest, and that peace was really to be concluded, the memory of all the old grudges was obliterated, and had been replaced by a rapidly increasing feeling of friendship. If an Austrian officer had now come into the Prussian lines he would have been received by the officers with the same open-hearted

hospitality which they show to their own comrades ; the day before he would have been treated with the most polite courtesy.

The troops were in excellent condition, both as to health and spirits, and quite prepared to march back to the frontier at the same rate as they advanced.

On the evening of the 26th the preliminaries of peace¹ were signed at Nikolsburg between Prussia and Austria ; the terms which were agreed to were—that Austria should go out of the Germanic Confederation, should pay a contribution towards Prussia's expenses in the late war, and should offer no opposition to the steps which Prussia might take with regard to Northern Germany : these steps were, to annex Hanover, Hesse-Cassel, Nassau, and the portion of Hesse-Darmstadt which lies on the north bank of the Maine ; to secure the reversion of Brunswick on the death of the present Duke, who has no children, to force Saxony to enter into the new North German Confederation headed by Prussia, and to hold the entire military and diplomatic leadership in that Confederation. The war contribution to be paid by Austria was fixed at 40,000,000 thalers, of which 15,000,000 were to be paid up, 15,000,000 were credited to Austria for the Schleswig-Holstein expenses, 5,000,000 for the support of the Prussian armies in Bohemia and Moravia, and 5,000,000 were to be paid at a future date to be afterwards settled. The Prussian armies were on the 2d of August to retire to the north of the Thaya, but were to occupy Bohemia and Moravia till the signature of the final treaty of

¹ See page 249.

peace, and to hold Austrian Silesia until the war contribution was paid.

To allow time for the preparation and determination of the definitive treaty of peace, an armistice for five weeks was concluded, to commence on the 2d August, to which day the five days' suspension of hostilities was extended. The convention for the armistice determined as follows:—

That the line of demarcation during the armistice should run from Eyer by Pilsen, Neuhaus, Zlabings to the Thaya: then follow the course of that stream to its junction with the March, along the March to Napajedl, and in a straight line from Napajedl to Oderberg, on the Prussian frontier.

Round each of the Austrian fortresses lying within the territories occupied by the Prussians a space was to be left, in order that the fortress might draw provisions therefrom. Round Olmütz this space was to be ten miles, round Josephstadt, Theresienstadt, and Königgrätz five miles.

The Prussians were to have the free use of all land and water communications within the ground occupied by their armies, and to have the right of transport by the railway from Prerau to Böhmisoh-Trübau, which runs past the fortress of Olmütz.

The Austrian troops were not to advance from their actual positions until the Prussian troops were entirely beyond the Thaya.

The sick, who were left by the Prussians with doctors and attendants in their actual positions, were to be supplied by the Austrian Government, and no impedi-

ment was to be made to their removal to their homes as soon as possible by the Prussian Government.

The Prussian troops were to be rationed from the territories occupied. No money contributions were to be raised.

Negotiations were to be opened at Prague for the definitive conclusion of peace.

By some unfortunate misunderstanding, the garrison of Theresienstadt on the 28th July, although peace was agreed upon on the 26th, sallied from their fortress, destroyed the railway bridge near Kralup, north of Prague, broke the telegraph wires near the same spot, and captured two Prussian officers, two officials, and fifty soldiers. When the commandant of Theresienstadt directed this sally, he was unaware that the preliminaries of peace had been agreed to ; but his inopportune vigour caused a great deal of inconvenience to the Prussian army, for the destruction of the bridge broke the line of communication with Türnau, which was a large depôt of stores. During the armistice, too, some Austrian hussars, unconscious of the existence of a truce, made an attack on a park of reserve artillery at Znaym, and did some damage, for, on account of the conclusion of the armistice, the guards had not taken precautions against a surprise.

On the evening of the 27th, preliminaries of peace were also agreed upon with Bavaria. The Bavarian Ambassador, Herr Von der Pfordten, had been for some days at Nikolsburg unable to obtain an audience of Count Bismark, and only in the afternoon of the 27th secured a few moments' conversation with the Prussian

Prime Minister. The terms of peace were quickly stated: the cession of all Bavarian territory north of the Maine to Prussia, the cession of the Rhenish Palatine to Hesse-Darmstadt, and the payment of a war contribution. The Bavarian demurred, pleaded he had no instructions to give up territory, and wished to enter into diplomatic negotiations in a more orthodox manner, for to the Ambassador trained in the rules of his art it seemed almost sacrilege to turn over provinces in a meeting of only some moments' duration, and to scratch out frontier lines with one or two dashing strokes of a hurried pen; but the plenipotentiaries of Prussia, Count Bismark and General Von Moltke, would listen to no propositions and hear no objections, they required an immediate assent; the representative of the Court of Munich did not feel justified in agreeing to such conditions, the meeting abruptly terminated, and orders were telegraphed to General Manteuffel to press the war in Bavaria. News came in from that country of Prussian successes; the Armies of the Elbe, of Prince Frederick Charles, and of the Crown Prince were ready to hurry off detachments to the theatre of war south of the Maine, the cause of the decaying Bund was evidently hopeless, every day of indecision must heighten the war contribution; so in the evening the Bavarian Ambassador was fain to declare his agreement to the terms dictated. Orders were then telegraphed to General Manteuffel to arrest the progress of his army, and preliminaries for a peace were signed.

On the 27th, after the preliminary treaty with Austria had been signed, the King, much to the satisfaction

of the officers at Nikolsburg, who in this case certainly represented the public opinion of the whole army, conferred on General Von Moltke the Order of the Black Eagle, the highest of the decorations of Prussia, not more as a sign of approval of the skill with which the General had carried through the negotiations, than of the strategy he had displayed in the conduct of the campaign.

The army was delighted with the terms of the peace ; all the hardship, all the danger of the campaign were quite forgotten—all desire of war and regret that peace had been made so soon had utterly vanished, giving way to feelings of congratulation and happiness, because few men really thought that the dreams of a United Germany and of a common Fatherland for the whole Teutonic race were now visionary speculations, but were results which must follow sooner or later from this campaign. Count Bismark was immensely popular in the army ; he was regarded as the author and origin of this success, so rapid, so complete, that no Prussian dared to hope for half such a triumph when the troops dashed into Saxony nearly seven weeks before.

A review was ordered in the Marchfeld for the 31st, but only of the main body of the First Army and of the cavalry corps. The Second Army and the Army of the Elbe were already preparing to march back over the Thaya, and as soon as the roads were clear the army of Prince Frederick Charles was to follow. The greater part of the Crown Prince's army was to hold Austrian Silesia and Moravia, while the First Army and the Army of the Elbe occupied Bohemia. There was one dark

shadow cast over the troops, although it was almost disregarded amid the universal joy caused by the glorious terms of peace which had been obtained. The cholera had broken out in the camp, several men and officers were already down with it, and great fears were entertained that the hot weather might cause it to increase. The cases at first were not very numerous, but they were not confined to one particular regiment, or one particular locality, which makes it appear as though the disease were lurking all through the lines, ready to burst forth everywhere if a day hotter than usual or a slight failure of good water should occur. The medical men, however, spoke confidently of their power to keep the pestilence under, and it was hoped that when the troops turned their faces homewards they might shake it off by change of quarters, and suffer no more when well away from the flat land which borders on the Danube. But it pursued them as they moved, and during the whole of the remaining time which the Prussian army remained on Austrian territory it suffered much from disease.

By the 29th the Prussian army began to withdraw from the duchy of Austria; the Crown Prince's army was already moving back towards Austrian Silesia, passing through Moravia. The second corps d'armée of the First Army had commenced its movement towards Prague, and the rest of the First Army was also to begin its retrograde march on the 1st August, after it had been reviewed by the King in the Marchfeld on the 31st July. General Mülbe, who had come with his reserve corps from Prague to Brünn before the pre-

liminaries of peace were agreed upon, was retracing his steps. It could not be expected that the return march would be nearly so rapid as that of the advance. There was no enemy now in the front to be turned or hurriedly pushed back, so the troops moved by easy stages until they reached the positions they had to occupy till the treaty of peace was finally signed.

The troops were not at all sorry to be called upon to march again ; they had had more than enough rest after the quick marches of the advance, and began now to find time hang rather heavy on their hands. Even smoking gets tiresome when it has been indulged in for almost a week continuously without the interruption of parades or inspections. Helmet tops had been polished and repolished, needle-guns had had their complicated mechanism taken to pieces, cleaned, and put together again, swords and bayonets had been burnished over and over again, accoutrements and appointments had been inspected closely and more closely, almost in the hope of finding some rent or hole which might have to be repaired, all for the sake of something to do. But all the occupation which their accoutrements could afford to the men had been exhausted, and now they were reduced to strolling about listlessly, or hanging over the fences which surround the gardens of the cottages where they were billeted, sucking gravely at their long wooden pipes. Now and then a soldier might be seen starting off to cut Indian corn for the cow of the villager on whom he was billeted, but he was seldom allowed to enjoy alone his temporary occupation ; a group of comrades, eager for employment, joined

him, and in consequence the basket, the filling of which might have given one man work for a couple of hours, was crammed full in a few minutes by the thick group of voluntary labourers. The village children alone were perfectly satisfied with the existing state of affairs ; they, unlike their elders, had no misgivings about heavy taxes which they would be required to pay for the expenses of the Austrian army or the war contribution to Prussia ; unlike the soldiers, they were not far away from friends and homes, to whom, now that the legitimate work of the campaign was over, these were eager to return ; careless of to-morrow, they were only delighted to have so many playfellows, for the great strong men, who had been but the other day pursuing the flying Austrian battalions from Königgrätz, were now content to let the children beat them, pull their hair, or sometimes run about with their newly cleaned swords trailing in the dust, and were well pleased afterwards to instruct the urchins in the arts of converting a lump of deal into a boat, or a stick of sycamore wood into a whistle.

A little after nine o'clock on the morning of the 31st July, 1866, the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th infantry divisions and the cavalry corps of the First Prussian Army were drawn up on the Marchfeld, within fifteen miles of Vienna, to be reviewed by the King of Prussia. The troops were formed in four lines, facing towards the south, where, through the haze which always on a warm day overhangs a large city, could be indistinctly seen the tall Stephanenthurm that marked the situation of the Austrian capital ; their left rested close to the village of Gänserndorf, whence the lines stretched for a distance of a

mile and a half over a slightly undulated plain, from which the crops had already been removed, in the direction of Auersthal, but did not extend so far as that village, The two front lines were formed of heavy battalions of infantry, each clumped together in close columns of companies, standing out a dark blue square against the yellow stubble; a hundred yards behind the battalion stood a long line of the cavalry corps under the command of Prince Albrecht, forming, with the cavalry regiments attached to the infantry, a force of close upon 10,000 sabres and lances. On the right stood the heavy brigade of General Pfuël, consisting of the two cuirassier regiments of the Emperor of Russia and of the Duke of Coburg, tall strong men mounted on massive horses, with their yellow helmets and armour glittering in the hot sunshine like burnished gold; next on the left stood Rheinhaben's brigade formed from cavalry of the Guard, one regiment of dragoons in light blue uniforms with red facings, and shining black janned helmets; and two of Uhlans, the black and white flags of whose lances formed a strong contrast to the bright red facings and lancer caps over which they waved. Next to the Guard brigade was drawn up the brigade of Duke William of Mecklenburg, which had formed the advanced guard of the First Army since it crossed the Elbe at Przelautsch, and which did such tremendous havoc among the Austrian cuirassiers at the end of the battle of Königgrätz. The regiments in this brigade are the red hussars of Ziethen, the celebrated yellow Uhlans commanded by Prince Hohenlohe, and the 2d dragoons of the Guard, one of whose squadrons rode down the Austrian lancers at Tischnowitz.

In the next brigade stood the thinned squadrons of the 3d dragoons, who lost more than half their numbers at the great battle, side by side with the light blue and silver clad Thuringian hussars, who also suffered much in the same charge as the 3d dragoons. The left of the cavalry brigade was formed by Goltz's heavy brigade, the Queen's own cuirassiers, and the 9th Uhlans, the regiment in whose hands the lance asserted its supremacy over the sword in the cavalry combat at Saar. In the fourth line, some two hundred yards in the rear of the cavalry, were drawn up the ambulance waggons, ammunition waggons, field telegraph division, a long line of light-blue carriages with companies of side-bearers, and engineers here and there between them, while on the left lay the batteries of the reserve artillery. Between the batteries of infantry and the long line of horsemen stood the field batteries attached to the infantry divisions, each division in a closed column of four batteries, with a cavalry regiment beside it.

About half-past nine Prince Frederick Charles galloped on to the ground and took the command of the whole force. The troops were not quite formed up when he arrived, and in a short time they had all taken up their positions. Officers were sent to look out for the approach of the King, and the cavalry dismounted and stood beside their horses, the infantry piled their arms and rested beside them to await his arrival. In about half an hour an officer who had been acting as scout towards the right was seen coming at full gallop towards the Prince, but the purport of his message was understood—he had no need to deliver it. Before he had

reached the Commander-in-chief the sharp words of command calling the battalions and squadrons to "attention" were passing quickly along the line, and in two or three minutes the troopers were in their saddles, the companies were reformed, the gunners sprang to their posts beside their guns, and the whole army stood silent and motionless ; the bayonets bristled stiff among the serried ranks of the infantry, the lance staves and swords formed a perfect unbending line along the whole cavalry division, the troopers sat as still as statues, for the horses had been perfectly quieted by the campaign, and the only moving things among the wide-spread hosts were the standards of the infantry, and the pennons of the Uhlans.

A little knot of horsemen appeared over the brow of a gentle undulation, and came quickly towards the centre of the line ; a tall man with grey hair and moustache, in the uniform of a general officer, rode in front. When he came nearly opposite the centre of the army, the sword point of Prince Frederick Charles was lowered quickly towards the ground. At this signal every officer's sword went down, with a rapid clatter every musket came to the "present," the lance staves and glittering sword-blades of the cavalry stood straight up at the "carry," while every band struck up the Prussian national hymn to salute the King. He bowed down to his horse's neck to return not only the salute, but the loud cheer which went up from the ordered crowd, and which drowned the music almost as soon as it began to sound. For a few minutes this lasted, and then it died away, giving place to the last few notes of the bands. All was again silent. The King moved to the right of the foremost line, and

rode along it, stopping here and there to speak to soldiers who had specially distinguished themselves, or to shake hands with the commanding officers. Every battalion cheered him as he walked along its front, pausing to address to each a few words of praise for some particular action during the campaign. Along the second line, the cavalry, and the carriages in the rear he also rode, before he took up his position for the army to march past him.

The first troops that went by were those of the fifth division, commanded by General Tümping, who fought and won, from a superior Austrian force strongly posted, the action of Brada, near Gitschin. The whole of the Prussian infantry had well proved during the war its power of marching long distances on bad roads and in unfavourable weather, and that day the battalions who were reviewed on the Marchfeld, amply demonstrated that this power can co-exist with the most beautiful exactness of parade movements. With a long swinging stride the men passed by, keeping perfect line, and stepping together in such exact time that they could not have done better if, instead of campaigning and bivouacking, they had spent the last two months at marching drill. In the centre of each battalion was carried the standard, often riddled with bullet-holes, sometimes so torn away that only a few patches of tattered silk were left hanging on the bare pole. In the fifth division were the 8th, 12th, 18th, and 48th regiments, all below their proper strength, for the losses at Gitschin had not yet been replaced, as the reinforcements which were coming up were stopped as soon as peace was agreed upon. After the infantry

came the 3d regiment of Uhlans, which was attached to this division. The perfect marching of the foot soldiers seemed to be contagious, for the squadrons moved in such even lines that as they passed the horseman on the flank utterly hid all the rest from view. Then came the batteries, two abreast, dark and business-like, with the guns uncovered, and the rammers ready, as if pressing forward into action.

The sixth division, under General Manstein, followed the fifth, in the same order ; it consisted of the 24th, 64th, 60th, and 35th regiments, all marching with the same steady step, and in equally perfect lines as those who had gone before them. Well they looked and well they went ; stout, broad-shouldered men, well grown in years, with thick beards and moustaches, who swung along quickly, without a thought about the heavy yellow knapsack which hung upon their backs. After them followed a dark-green battalion of Jägers, linked shoulder to shoulder in four wall-like lines, marching as if they were always in this close formation, though really they have been used in nothing but skirmishing order during the war. The cavalry of this division, the well-known black dragoons of Brandenburg, with their light-blue tunics and dark velvet collars, from which they get their name, formed a bright contrast in colour to the dark-green riflemen, but moved with unwavering squadrons, which showed perfectly trained horses and skilled horsemen.

Franzecky's division came next, the heroes of Benatek and of the attack against the Austrian right on the Bistriz, where they left so many of their comrades.

Behind this general marched the 26th, 66th, 67th, and 97th regiments, the last showing by its diminished front the severity of the fire to which it was so long exposed in the hardly-contested wood above Benatek, and the sharp fighting of a later date near Blumenau. With this division passed the dark green and gold Magdeburg hussars, one squadron of which made the successful charge against the Austrian Uhlans in front of Kaltenbrun.

The last infantry regiment which marched past was the 8th, formerly commanded by General Horne, but, since that general had gone to take the command of the whole of the infantry of the first reserve corps, under General Schoeler. It was a brigade of this division which fought by night the first infantry combat of the campaign in the narrow street of Podoll, where it suffered severely. This division also stormed the village of Sadowa on the morning of the 3d of July, and spent the greater part of the day in the wood above, exposed to both artillery and musketry fire. The companies looked weak, for their ranks had been thinned by much fighting; but the men who had come through it went past their King with a proud bearing, more like fresh troops going upon service than like men who had just finished a campaign. All looked splendid, all called forth admiration, and a loud murmur of delight went up from the groups of officers behind the King as the tall Jägers of Magdeburg passed in unbending line before them. These men, recruited from the Hartz mountains, and bred up to a forest life, are the very *beau idéal* of light infantry soldiers; tall, muscular, and wiry, quick of sight, and rare marksmen. They are so cool under fire and

so certain of their aim, that it is asserted that, like the English archer of old, the Magdeburg Jäger carries a foeman's life in every bullet in his cartouche. When the infantry had passed away, the cavalry in a long column of squadrons filed before the King, and in the column was seen every class of cavalry soldier which exists in the Prussian service: heavy, broad-shouldered cuirassiers, clothed in white uniforms, with high black boots, mounted on tall, strong horses, which tramped along under the weight of their armour-clad riders, raising clouds of dust, which half obscured the dazzling reflection of the sun from the helmets and cuirasses; tall and lithe Uhlans, carrying with an easy balance their long lances, of which the bannered points rose in an even line above their heads; light dragoons—for in this service all the dragoons are light cavalry, armed with sword and carbine; and lighter still, bright-coloured, rakish-looking hussars, active little men, on strong, short-legged horses, decked out with gaudy trappings, which gave them an almost Oriental appearance. In rear of the cavalry the reserve artillery rolled slowly past, followed by the hospital trains, now empty, and with the stretchers, which used to be carried by the Krankenträger, now folded up and strapped upon the carriages; but ugly red stains upon the curtains of the ambulance waggons showed that all had been lately used. Last of all came the very useful field telegraph detachment, nine carriages, carrying means for laying down instantly and for using thirty miles of wire. When all had passed, the King called the commanding officers round him, and said:—

"GENTLEMEN,—I cannot speak to all the soldiers under your command—they are too many ; but to you, for all, I must express my thanks for the conduct and behaviour of this army during the campaign, which your exertions have brought to such a glorious conclusion. I shall not enter into the details of the gallant conduct of your troops at the battle of Königgrätz, where for hours you stood under the whole artillery fire of the Austrian army, and resisted successfully all the attempts of the enemy to crush you, and thus break the centre of the line of our battle. I cannot speak as I should wish of Sichrow, Münchengrätz, Podoll, and Gitschin. I can but embrace my nephew, your commander, as the representative of you all. I can but tell you that I thank you, and that your King and your Fatherland feel that you have nobly done your duty. I am sure there is nothing I could say which could be more pleasing to Prussian soldiers."

Loud cheers greeted the conclusion of this speech, when the King turned his horse, and rode away.

On the morning of the 31st, Prince Charles, the father of Prince Frederick Charles and Prince Adalbert, received the Order of Merit from the King, the same Order as the Crown Prince received on the battle-field of Königgrätz. General Von Voigt-Rhetz was appointed Governor of Hanover, and many other officers and soldiers received military honours. Prince Frederick Charles received nothing, for there was nothing left to give him ; he had already won every decoration which it was in the power of the monarch to bestow ; but he was well contented, for the troops under his command had won a reputation, not only for courage, discipline, and endurance, but also for tenderness to their wounded enemies and for a kindly consideration for the peaceful inhabitants of the conquered countries, which must endure as long as history lives. The King's speech closed the last scene of the war of 1866.

The King started for Berlin immediately, and the troops of the First Army, who were reviewed on the 31st, began their northward march the following morning. During the occupation of the Austrian provinces the head-quarters of Prince Frederick Charles were ordered to be established at Prague, and his army to lie between that city and the Thaya, with the Army of the Elbe on its west and the Second Army on its north and east. On the morning of the 1st of August, the last of the Prussian troops broke up from their positions on the Marchfeld, and began to retrace their steps towards the north. There was no need now to advance prepared to form up for battle, no scouts were required to steal along in front of the column, skirmishers were not required to beat through the woods and search the villages alongside of the line of march, the staff-officers did not need to ride forward to gaze anxiously through their field-glasses for indications of an enemy, so the troops were allowed to march easily and carelessly along, and as far as possible the marches were arranged so that the infantry might move by separate roads from the cavalry and artillery, and press forward at their own pace, unincumbered by horsemen or waggons. Though only two-thirds of the First Army remained to be reviewed by the King on the 31st, and the rest were already several marches before them, it was wonderful to see what an extent of country was occupied by the same troops when moving which two days before were clumped together on the small strip of ground near Gänserndorf. Along every road and every lane poured long columns: here battalions of infantry, formed of soldiers swinging along carelessly

in loose formation and with open ranks, generally singing in loud chorus the Prussian equivalent to "Home, sweet home," "*Mein schönes Heimath's Land*;" there, long glittering lines of cuirassiers twisted and twined between willow-trees and vineyards, standing out with their burnished armour bright and clear against the green foliage of the copses or thickly-planted vines; further off the march of a regiment of Uhlans could be detected by the tall spears and fluttering pennons which rose above a swelling piece of ground or a plantation of dwarfed oak; while a heavy, rumbling noise, toned down by distance, through which rose faintly the voices of the singing soldiers, told that the batteries were moving along the main road to Nikolsburg. Every village was teeming with soldiers, who were quartered in every house; but, though the inhabitants were often inconvenienced by having to find the requisite accommodation for the men, they were very friendly, though they did not scruple openly to say they were extremely glad it was the last time they would be obliged to be the involuntary hosts of the multitudes of foreigners who, however agreeable and friendly, still took up a great deal of room. The villages of this part of the country had a harder time than those of Bohemia and Moravia, inasmuch as for many days the whole of the Prussian armies had been concentrated between Nikolsburg and the Roszbach, but by some wonderful means every village now had plenty of food and wine to sell to hungry and thirsty officers and soldiers—a marvellous fact, for they had been long shut out from Vienna, whence the inhabitants said they drew all their usual supplies; but as this was

a good wine country, and poultry and eggs do not generally come out of capital cities, it is just possible that these statements might have been advanced as an excuse for the high prices by means of which they were doing their best to wring from the pockets of the passing Prussians a set-off against the heavy taxes they expected to be levied by the Austrian Government to pay the expenses of the war. Still, the villagers and the soldiers were on excellent terms; and as the troops were parading on the 1st, to march away, there was a good deal of hand-shaking and loud protestations of mutual esteem and good-will. The inhabitants made no complaints against the troops, and had no grounds to make any. The soldiers spoke well of their entertainers, though there was a theory in the ranks that the wonderful abundance of wine was only a direct consequence of the admirable supply of water which the valley of the March boasts, and some of the men could detail graphically the different gradations of colour, from purple to very light red, which their daily beverage underwent during the period of the Prussian occupation of the district.

On the afternoon of the 1st, the head-quarters of the First Army were all ready to march in the direction of Iglau, *en route* for Prague, where they were to be established until the conclusion of peace, or until such an apparently improbable event should occur as the expiration of the armistice without the conclusion of a treaty. When all was ready, horses saddled, saddle-bags packed, and every preparation had been made to evacuate Ebenthal, a telegram arrived ordering Prince Frederick

Charles to march to Lundenburg, and thence to proceed by rail with some of his troops to the capital of Bohemia. The field post-office and some of the baggage had already moved off and were well on their way to a village named Peirawerth, which would have been the first halting-place had the original route been adhered to. It was useless to recall them, so orders were sent to them to move to Zisterdorf, where the staff joined them on the morning of the 2d, after a short march over the undulating country which lies between the March and the great highway from Nikolsburg to Vienna. The land was now bare of its corn crops, for the harvest was already nearly over, and stretched away in a rolling plain of bare stubble land, broken here and there by bright green patches of vineyard, which contrasted refreshingly with the monotonous yellow, or by clumps of pollard willows or stunted oaks, which cluster round the little water-courses in the hollows. A miserable little town at the best of times, off the main road, hot, white, and dusty, Zisterdorf that day looked worse than usual; it had been for some time occupied by troops, who had left untidy *souvenirs* of the encampments of horses in the market-place and streets in the shape of remnants of down-trodden straw and fodder. Every house had been more or less tenanted by soldiers, and the traces of their visit were still extant in the crushed bundles of straw which formed their sleeping-places, and now lay in most of the rooms disregarded by the dirty inhabitants, and afforded a copious supply of waifs and strays to be carried by the feet of every one who went out of the house along the passages and into the unpaved street, where the

marks of the numerous waggons which had passed through the town were preserved in deep rough ruts sunk far into the mud, which had since been hardened by the heat of the sun. But men who were turning homewards from the end of a successful campaign faced cheerfully even the dirty rooms and straw-covered floors of this worst class of German village; so the staff-officers did not grumble, but made up their minds to it, and looked forward to Prague as a happy haven, where clean beds would at last be found.¹

A march of twenty-five miles brought the headquarters of the First Army on the 3d August to the village of Eisgrub, where they were established in the chateau of Prince Lichtenstein, said to be the most beautiful country seat in the territories of the Kaiser. The chateau inside consisted of long series of wide halls, high corridors, and magnificent rooms, decorated and

¹ It may not be uninteresting for any one who happens to have that rare piece of property, a good map of this part of the country, to see how the different divisions of this army were billeted, as it serves as an example of the manner in which divisions have been quartered during the advance, and shows what extent of country each body of troops occupies in its nightly quarters when moving. The fifth infantry division occupied Laab, Hoflein, Rahhof, Rothenseehof, Neudorf, Neusiedl, Hanitthal, Reiselbrechtsdorf, Wülzershofen. The sixth division was in Gross Tejar, Enlberg, Klein, Grillowitz, Waltrowitz, Klein Olkowitz, Zulb, Kletemanna, Raissenbrück, Josewitz, Isfeld, Malberg, Zwingendorf, Derhof, Carlhof; the seventh division, in Guttenfeld, Bartelsbrunn, Schafferhof,

Stuttenhof, Prerau, Wildendurnbach, Poltenhof, Ruffersdorf, Kirchstatden, Zabern, Falkenstein, Pugsbrunn, Stutzenhofen, Gutenbrunn, Offenthal, Schwenwarth; the eighth division, in Nikolsburg, Voitelbrunn, Drasenhofen, Tunstkirchen, Steinabrun, Garenthal, Haithof, Felsberg, Eisgrub, Neudek, Pilgram, Everett, Mitlowitz. The reserve artillery was parked in Grussbach, Neuhoft, Sihoenau, Grafendorf, Auschanhof, Trollersdorf, Neusiedl, Pardorf, Illemnitz, Bergen, Dannowitz, Weistenitz, Guldenfurth. It may be seen from this what an extent of country even a small portion of this army required, for the above list does not include the quarters of the cavalry corps, but of only four infantry divisions, with their reserve artillery.

adorned with oak carving of rare workmanship, and precious suits of ancient armour, where stood furniture of exquisite finish and taste, and the walls of which were hung with glorious old pictures recording the noble deeds done by the house of Lichtenstein. Outside stretched away into the far distance long vistas of pleasure-grounds, the green turf of which was thickly studded with clumps of full-grown cedars, tulip-trees, and coppice beech, grouped among other more common but not less beautiful trees, with so high a skill that all trace of art was concealed, and Nature was courted so skilfully as to be outrivalled. The river Thaya, which flows through the grounds, was by hidden means constrained to form wide lakes or narrow winding creeks of dark blue water, which in some places washed with a tiny wave raised by the gentle summer breeze against sloping banks of emerald turf, sometimes lay calm and still under the shelter of the woods, reflecting the light green weeping willows which overshadowed it, and floated their lowest leaves upon the surface. Where the trees did not occupy the ground, bright beds of carefully-tended flowers, jets of water springing from quaintly constructed fountains, orange-trees loaded with bright yellow fruit, flowering shrubs covered with full blossoms, and bushes of nearly full-blown roses of every shade and hue, threw just the proper amount of life into the picture to prevent it from being melancholy, and make it sublime. Never had it been more admired than on this day. Men who had come over down-trodden corn-fields, destroyed villages, woods cut away for palisades or abattis, and trees torn down and shivered

by tempests of shells, required no knowledge of landscape gardening, no wisdom in architecture, to make them heartfelt admirers of the peaceful prospect here; they saw its beauty, and felt it. Prince Lichtenstein himself could not have been more satisfied than his unknown guests that his property lay where no skirmish had to be fought, no defence made in his chateau, and no attack directed against it.

The head-quarters of the Crown Prince had been here for twelve days before the place was occupied by Prince Frederick Charles, but no traces had been left of the former tenants, either in the house itself or the adjoining grounds. Troops had been in and around Eisgrub for more than a fortnight, yet no trees had been broken, no grass cut up by horses' feet, no flower-beds trampled down; all the servants and inhabitants, with two exceptions, were well pleased with the Prussians, and were perfectly satisfied that the soldiers they had been told were little better than barbarians were very easy-going quiet sort of people after all. The two exceptions were the chief butler and the head gamekeeper. The former had a great grievance—the whole of the wine in the cellar of Feldsberg, a neighbouring property which also belongs to the Lichtenstein family, had been “required” by the Prussian commissariat. It was in vain to urge that some of it had been thirty years in bottle, that it would not bear carriage, or even that the key of the cellar had been lost. The commissariat officers would take no denial; if keys were not forthcoming, doors could be broken open; as for the not standing carriage, the troops would take their chance of that, and probably

the great age of the wine would compensate for any deterioration it might undergo by shaking. Finding all excuses unavailing, the unwilling functionary had to yield up his keys, and in silent agony to see what he had watched with an almost fatherly care for many years, and had been intended for the consumption of far more delicate connoisseurs, carried out of the cellars by working parties of soldiers, stowed away in rough provision waggons, and carted off to be served out as rations to Prussian troops. What comfort was it to him that he was assured the wine would be paid for when the war was over? No money could buy such vintages again, and even if it could the present generation could barely hope to drink it.

The second complainant, the gamekeeper, was more indignant than sorrowful; it appeared that a number of soldiers belonging to some regiment of the Second Army quartered near Eisgrub organized a *battue* on their own account, and with their needle-guns succeeded in killing a large number of the deer which were in the park. "But," as he said triumphantly, "we forwarded a complaint to the Crown Prince himself." This step, by the tone in which it was announced, seems to be supposed to have resulted in some terrible punishment being inflicted on the nefarious sportsmen who expended Prussian Government ammunition on unoffending stags, instead of against the enemies of their country; but what was actually the fate of these violators of the game laws, or whether, as the gamekeeper evidently thinks, the Commander-in-chief of the Second Army carried out some such penalty against the delinquents as those which

were enacted by the laws of William the Conqueror against similar offenders, has not been recorded. It is certain that a body of military police remained as watchers of the deer park during the rest of the time that the Army of Silesia was here, and that after the appeal to its commander no *zündnadel-gewehr* prevented the deer from roaming about in undisturbed safety.

On the 2d August the King's head-quarters moved to Prague; the next day he went to Berlin, whither he was accompanied by the Crown Prince, to be present at the opening of the Prussian Chambers. The troops of the First Army were about Eisgrub that night, the next day most of them crossed the Thaya. The head-quarters of Prince Frederick Charles left Lundenburg on the morning of the 4th, and by that evening every Prussian soldier was out of the Crown lands of Austria. There was great reason to rejoice that the army was now free to move its position, and was not tied down by the necessities of war to the duchy of Austria, for cholera had within the last few days broken out among the inhabitants with great violence. In Lundenburg the people were said to be dying at the rate of ten an hour; this appeared to be the exaggerated report of the frightened inhabitants, but there is no doubt that the pestilence was very prevalent, and was causing much mortality among the country people. The Prussian troops had suffered, but not to a very great extent, and more cases had been cured than had proved fatal. It was hoped that change of quarters, rest, and plenty of food would soon free the troops of the disease; but it was feared that it would rage among the natives, who had little to eat, and could hope for little

from the vintage, for the late frost in this spring nipped the early vines, and almost ruined the crop of grapes.

On the morning of the 5th August, at four o'clock, the head-quarters of the First Prussian Army broke up from Eisgrub, by a short march reached Lundenburg station, and thence by railway to Prague, where Prince Frederick Charles remained until peace was definitely signed, and no possibility remained of his army being required again for the present. Although only one battalion of Jägers formed the escort of the train which brought the Prince and his staff, yet the number of carriages required to convey the whole of the heads of departments who moved with head-quarters, their servants and horses, was very great ; and on account of the numerous curves in the line, the long train was only able to jolt so slowly along that, although it left Lundenburg at half-past six in the morning, it did not arrive at Prague till midnight. Slow and tedious as the journey was, and much as at the time the impatient officers grumbled, they had good cause to be grateful for the tardiness with which it was driven, for the next morning intelligence was received which told that a train, following a few hours after, in trying to go faster, met with a terrible accident. On account of the great amount of military traffic on the line, which had lately formed the artery of communication and supplies for the three united Prussian armies, railway carriages had been brought from Saxony and even Prussia to supply the necessary transport. These carriages for the most part ran on three pairs of wheels, instead of on two, as do those which in time of peace run along this line, and which for the most part the Austrians

drew back with them when they retreated. The Saxon carriages, built for straighter lines and gentler curves, were very liable on such a line as that which from Brünn twists and winds up the valley to Prerau to run off the rails. It was thus that the accident occurred. One of the six-wheeled carriages flew off the rails, turned over, and formed a barricade, against which and each other the twelve succeeding ones were shivered. Five men were killed and eight were seriously hurt ; many horses suffered, and seven belonging to the King were killed. This unfortunate accident affords a moral, inasmuch that it shows that not only must the permanent way be entire and safe, but the rolling stock used must be suited to the particular line, if railways are required to afford in time of war not only powerful but also rapid means of transport.

The railway journey was from the front to far in the rear of the great Prussian armies. At Lundenburg, and for some distance north, all the roads which could be seen from the line were swarming with infantry, cavalry, and artillery, winding slowly along in a northerly direction ; further on were reserve store trains, ammunition columns, heavy artillery, and all the numerous waggons which must follow in the rear of a great host of fighting men ; at Brünn was a garrison of Mülbe's reserve corps, the soldiers of which crowded the station to catch a glimpse of the Commander-in-chief of the First Army ; here, too, were the officers of the staff of the Crown Prince, who were waiting here till they received definite orders as to their further journey from their commander, who had been hurried to Berlin to take part in the

opening of the Chambers. Furtlier north, beside roads and near villages, could be seen dark blue heavy waggons, packed in regular order, which formed the rearmost line of the reserve artillery and ammunition trains, and further north still the stations and towns were garrisoned by regiments of Landwehr.

Nothing could be more striking to Englishmen, who had long been accustomed to hear the Prussian army described as a sort of hurried levy of untrained militiamen, than the appearance of these troops. Fine and strong as were the men who fought in the foremost ranks during the campaign, Prussia had in reserve behind them troops formed of soldiers equally tall, equally strong, older and better grown, in these Landwehr levies. Most of the privates are men of good situation in life, for, after completing their terms of service in the Line, they go into business or professions, and generally have secured comfortable incomes ; but at the call of their country they quit their affairs, and return to serve in the ranks, and bring with them to their soldier's duty an education and intelligence which can be found in the armies of no other country in Europe ; nor, as can be seen from the garrison of this place, have they in private life forgotten one item of their former military training. They are grand troops, the very *beau idéal* of a soldiery ; and they are well led, for their officers, nearly all of noble birth, are men who have formerly served in the army, and who in time of peace live upon their estates in the same districts as the soldiers they command in war are drawn from ; so that these Landwehr levies unite with their superior education and intelligence a chivalrous

affection for their chiefs, such as characterised the privates of the bands who fought so gallantly for the House of Stuart.

The Landwehr soon began to move back into Prussia, and were disbanded to return to their homes; their places were taken by the troops of the armies which had been engaged in the field, and which occupied the greater part of Bohemia and Moravia until the conclusion of the definite treaty of peace.

The city of Prague was not visibly affected by the presence of a Prussian garrison. The shops were all open; trade went on even more briskly than usual, for the Landwehr officers were generally rich, and spent their money freely; but it must have taken the citizens some time to recover from the officers and soldiers of the garrison the money they had to contribute for the expenses of the occupation of their town by the Prussians.

Prince Albrecht, the commander of the cavalry corps, reached Prague on the 10th of August, but he did not bring his troops with him, for they had been scattered through the country to facilitate the supply of the large amount of provisions and forage which so many horsemen daily required. The infantry of the armies of Prince Frederick Charles, the Crown Prince, and the Army of the Elbe, were also scattered through Bohemia and Moravia in small divisions, which took up the positions they held until the plenipotentiaries who were assembling at Prague had affixed their signatures to the definitive treaty of peace.

Some of the infantry corps of the Guard were stationed at Prague for a few days, but only as a temporary measure.

On the 10th August a brigade of cavalry of the Guard corps marched through the town on their way to the north, for the whole of this corps was to be scattered among the villages between Prague and Theresienstadt. This brigade consisted of the garde du corps, the cuirassiers of the Guard, and a battery of the horse artillery of the Guard; it was the heavy brigade of the Guard cavalry, and corresponds in the Prussian service to our Household cavalry. The garde du corps were dressed in the same way as our cuirassiers; their men, though not so tall as the soldiers of the Life-guards, looked as if they rode heavier upon their horses, for they carried, even upon active service, the long black boot, and were encumbered with an enormous kit. Their uniform was white, their cuirasses and helmets of a burnished golden colour; the men looked strong, solid, and healthy; the horses were thin, but in wonderful condition, considering that they had within seven weeks marched from Prussian Silesia to the banks of the Danube and back to Prague. The Guard cuirassiers, who followed, were dressed in the same manner as the garde du corps, except that they had blue facings instead of scarlet, and wore the ordinary cavalry overall. The long squadrons of bright bay horses looked exceedingly well, and even the most prejudiced advocate of light cavalry, and nothing but light cavalry, if he had that day seen Prince Albrecht's heavy horsemen returning from their campaign, must have owned that the days in which heavy cavalry are of use in war are not yet numbered. The experience of this campaign has taught that needle-guns and rifled artillery have no more driven cavalry, and even very heavy cavalry, from

the field of battle than they have from the theatre of war ; but it has been found that, in the shock of closing squadrons, small men and light horses must go down before the powerful onset of stouter assailants. The Prussians found that, in future, cavalry must be formed and equipped so as to allow strong troopers to be brought into the field ; but strong troopers ride heavily, and heavy loads tell fearfully on horses on the line of march ; so, to secure power in the charge with rapidity of movement, the dead weight which cavalry horses now carry must be reduced almost to nothing, and the horse must be required to bear little more than the rider, his arms, his cloak, and a light saddle. Valises will have to be carried in wagons in rear of the regiments, or left at some convenient place whence they can be forwarded to the front by railway or water transport when the army halts. In this war the Prussian cavalry gained a glorious and unexpected reputation from its conduct in the field ; but its horses suffered much from marching, especially in crossing the highland country which lies on the frontiers of Bohemia and Moravia. The cavalry felt the effects of the rapid movements more than the infantry ; yet the Prussian foot-soldier marched under almost every disadvantage which dress could inflict. His helmet was horrible, both as to comfort and appearance, his clothes were uncomfortable, the trousers without gaiters hung clammily against the calf on a rainy day, or collected inside them a layer of mud which rubbed uneasily against the ankle. The inconvenience of the dress was shown whenever a battalion started to march ; the first thing the soldier did was to divest himself of his helmet, and

slung it from his waist-belt, where it dangled uncomfortably against his legs; he unbuttoned his coat, and after a few days' experience scarcely ever omitted to stuff the lower parts of his trousers into his boots, which thus afforded a gaiter with the advantage of requiring neither buttons nor straps, as do those in use in most armies. Prussian officers themselves acknowledged that the dress of their army could not be compared to that of the Austrians either for efficiency or appearance. It only shows what splendid stuff the Prussian troops are made of when they performed such prodigies of marching as marked their victorious course under these disadvantages, and also weighed down by their heavy knapsacks, which, although of a better construction than those of most armies, were hardly required, and though present were seldom looked into in the actual campaign. Railways and improved roads have made great alterations in the necessities of a warrior, both by shortening the duration of campaigns and facilitating transport. Europe will never again see any decently-organized army waiting many weeks for the arrival of a siege train, for the carriage of which all available transport is required, so that from want of means of sending stores forward the troops in the front are shivering in tattered clothes and suffering painfully from unbooted feet. Soldiers need no longer be weighed down by heavy loads upon their backs, held back from their real use—marching and fighting—to be converted into beasts of burden. A spare shirt, a change of shoes, and a pot of grease, is about all that a foot-soldier need carry with him, besides his arms, ammunition, and some food.

On the morning of the 17th, the greater part of the first division of the infantry of the Guard marched into the town, and marched past before Prince Frederick Charles. Some of the division had arrived a few days before, but only that day made their formal entrance with their comrades, who early that morning reached the suburbs. In an open space about a mile and a half without the ramparts the whole of the troops who were to march in were assembled about eight o'clock, and a little after began moving towards the Ross Thor. There they filed through the gate, halted at the top of the market-place for a few moments to form their columns, passed before the Prince, and disappeared into the narrow winding streets beyond, some to take up billets for a few days in the town, others to pass through and move to their positions in the villages further north. The scarlet and gold squadrons of the Guard hussars led the way, the most smartly-equipped regiment in the Prussian service, whose officers wear the Hessian boot, the true leg-dress of the cavalry soldier. Behind them came the first infantry regiment of the Guard, with their white facings and silver ornaments; this is the celebrated regiment of Potsdam grenadiers, to fill the ranks of which with enormous men Frederick William I. culled giants out of every country in Europe, and made every Prussian Embassy, from London to Vienna, a recruiting-office. The men are not quite so tall now as those handed down to Frederick the Great; but still they worthily support the title of grenadiers, for no private in the battalions was less than six feet high, and the stature of the greater part exceeded that figure. The companies were weak, for many of the

tall soldiers who marched with their eagles from Prussia sleep at Chlum beside the chief who led them forth, General Hiller ; many were in hospital with wounds, and not a few had been left behind on account of sickness ; for the cholera had been among those who passed through the action of Trautenau and came scathless out of the battle of Königgrätz. Then came the fusiliers of the Guard, not quite so big as those who had gone before, but on the average taller men than the English Footguards. Behind these marched the dark green sections of the Jägers of the Guard, whose recruits are picked from all the foresters and gamekeepers of Prussia—marksmen of unerring aim, skirmishers of high intelligence, who know full well how to avail themselves of every stump and hillock, and how, lurking behind shelter, themselves in safety, with every bullet to bring down an enemy.

A gap of some hundred yards separated the Jägers from the second brigade, first in which came the 2d regiment, men and officers marching in forage caps. There was not a helmet to be seen in their ranks, for on going into action at Trautenau this regiment to a man threw away their heavy helmets, and thus rid themselves for the campaign of a cumbrous head-dress in a manner which did not draw forth such unqualified approval from the military authorities as did their conduct on the line of march or under fire. Behind the foot soldiers came the artillery of the division, followed by the provision columns and ambulance wagons, whose fine-drawn horses told of many a heavy pull over the rugged roads of Bohemia and Moravia.

The parade marching of the infantry of the Prussian

Guard has been renowned ever since its recruits were so harshly drilled by the stern soldier who first formed it. Since that time great alterations have been made both in the tactics and treatment of the men ; the Prussian grenadiers no longer move in the field in the stiff unbending formation which regarded soldiers only as machines. But while the Prussians have lately adopted a system of manœuvres for field service which unites immense elasticity with great rapidity of movement, they have not failed to observe that the foundation of all tactical pliability lies in previous solidity and precision ; that troops who cannot move well on parade rarely can be of much use in service, and that before infantry soldiers can dash about as skirmishers they must be able to move accurately in more solid formation. This was well shown by the Guards who marched into Prague on the 17th August. As the battalions passed the Prince not a line wavered, not an opening was seen between the shoulders of the men ; solid and compact, the companies swept rapidly along in lines as even as if they had been ruled, while every foot fell in measured cadence to describe a step of equal length.

The 18th was the birthday of the Emperor of Austria. Notwithstanding the presence of the Prussian garrison, it was celebrated with all due honours by the civil guard of the town. Early in the morning the town guards paraded, and marched through the street with sprigs of oak leaf in their hats, music playing, and swords drawn, while numbers of Prussian soldiers off duty crowded the foot pavements to gaze at them, and Prussian guards turned out to present arms to the Austrian standard of

the ancient city of Prague, which was carried in their midst. After the civil guard had marched through the principal streets, the fire engines followed, decked with flags and preceded by a band. The Prussian authorities made no objection to the celebration of the day; in fact, they encouraged it, for they made a point of allowing everything to go on in the Austrian towns they occupied as if no foreign troops were present, and no Prussian sentries stood upon the ramparts or occupied the guard houses. In consequence there was good feeling between the soldiers and the townspeople, between whom there arose many personal friendships, though the latter did not scruple, even openly, to say that, though they found the Prussians much more pleasant than they could have expected any enemies to be, they would not be sorry when their visit was over, and Prague was again garrisoned by the white uniforms of the Kaiser.

On the 19th, some more of the Guard corps marched into the town, while those that arrived two days before marched out to the north to occupy positions nearer Theresienstadt, and to make room for the new arrivals. The troops that came in were the yellow Uhlans of the Guard and the Elizabeth regiment. The infantry arrived very dusty, for they had a long march in the morning; but they went through the streets up to the Pulver Thurm, near which Prince Frederick Charles was waiting to receive them, with the same even front and steady tramp as the grenadiers who came in two days before, and swept past the Commander-in-chief of the First Army in the unwavering lines which always characterize a Prussian parade. The men of this regiment, destined

for lighter duties, were not so tall or stout as those of the first brigade, but they were still large men, with great depth and breadth of chest, and, though dusty, looked anything but tired from the hot march. The cavalry, like all lancers, looked smart, and, except that the horses were thinner than when they left Berlin, and that some of the squadron did not show their proper strength, exhibited small signs of having just come off a campaign. The people of Prague were so much accustomed now to the perpetual arrival of troops that few generally collected to see a regiment march in, but on this day, as the troops arrived just as mass was over and the congregations were pouring out of the churches, a considerable crowd stopped to gaze upon the Prussian guardsmen, who marched along between the thronged pavements, overtopping like giants the staring Bohemians. Some Austrian officers who were prisoners on parole, several having their arms in slings, on account of wounds received at Mönchengrätz or Sadowa, could not conceal their admiration of the Prussian troops. For a time they gazed silently ; but as company after company swept along, their countenances brightened up, and as the last battalion came they could no longer refrain from expressing in words their surprise and wonder that soldiers could be so perfectly trained within a period of three years' service. Fine as the men were who marched into Prague, many held that they did not come up to the Landwehr levies. The latter are older men and better filled out, and their ranks contain those whose education has been supplemented by application to trades or professions ; and Landwehr men are not men who have been

hastily recruited and rawly trained, they have all served for three years in the regular ranks, they are all true soldiers, and soldiers of such a sort as every general and every statesman would wish to see available for the service of his country.

The definitive treaty of peace was signed between Austria and Prussia at the Blue Star Hotel at Prague, on the 23d August. Austria was represented by Baron Brenner, Prussia by Baron Werther, as Count Bismarck had gone to Berlin at the same time as the King, to be present at the opening of the Chambers on the 5th August.

The treaty of peace definitively signed, was as follows :—

“ In the name of the Holy and Indivisible Trinity.

“ His Majesty the King of Prussia and His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, animated by a desire of restoring the blessings of peace to their dominions, have resolved to convert the Preliminaries signed at Nikolsburg on the 26th of July, 1866, into a definitive Treaty of Peace.

“ To this end their Majesties have appointed their plenipotentiaries as follows :—

“ His Majesty the King of Prussia :—

“ His Kammerherr, Effective Privy Councillor and Plenipotentiary, Charles Baron von Werther, Grand Cross of the Royal Prussian Order of the Red Eagle with Oak-leaves, and of the Imperial Austrian Order of Leopold ; and,

“ His Majesty the Emperor of Austria :—

“ His Effective Privy Councillor and Kammerherr, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Adolph Marie Baron von Brenner Tilsach, of the Imperial Austrian Order of Leopold, and Knight of the Royal Prussian Order of the Red Eagle, First Class, &c.

“ Who have met in Conference at Prague, and having exchanged their powers, drawn up in good and proper form, have agreed to the following Articles :

"ARTICLE 1.—For the future there shall be lasting peace and friendship between His Majesty the King of Prussia and His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, as well as between their heirs and descendants, their States and subjects.

"ARTICLE 2.—That the 6th Article of the Preliminaries of Peace signed at Nikolsburg on the 26th of July of this year may be carried out; and inasmuch as His Majesty the Emperor of the French, by his authorized emissary to His Majesty the King of Prussia, officially declared at Nikolsburg on the 29th of the same month of July, *qu'en ce qui concerne le Gouvernement de l'Empereur la Venise est acquise à l'Italie pour lui être remise à la paix*, His Majesty the Emperor of Austria on his part conforms to this declaration, and gives his consent to the union of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom with the Kingdom of Italy, without imposing any other condition than the liquidation of those debts which have been acknowledged charges on the territories now resigned, in conformity with the Treaty of Zurich.

"ARTICLE 3.—The prisoners of war shall be at once released on both sides.

"ARTICLE 4.—His Majesty the Emperor of Austria recognises the dissolution of the late German Bund, and gives his consent to a new formation of Germany, in which the Imperial State of Austria shall take no part. Moreover, His Majesty promises to recognise the closer Federal relations which His Majesty the King of Prussia is about to establish north of the line of the Maine, and also agrees that the German States to the south of this line shall form an union, the national connexion of which with the Northern Confederacy is reserved for a more defined agreement between both parties, and which is to maintain an international independent existence.

"ARTICLE 5.—His Majesty the Emperor of Austria transfers to His Majesty the King of Prussia all the rights he acquired under the Peace of Vienna on the 30th of October, 1864, to the Duchies of Holstein and Schleswig, with the understanding that the people of the northern district of Schleswig, if, by free vote they express a wish to be united to Denmark, shall be ceded to Denmark accordingly.

"ARTICLE 6.—At the desire of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, His Majesty the King of Prussia declares himself willing, on the approaching changes in Germany, to allow the territory of the Kingdom of Saxony to remain within its present limits, reserving to himself the right of settling in a separate Treaty of Peace with the King of Saxony the share to be contributed by Saxony towards the

expenses of the war, and the position henceforth to be held by the Kingdom of Saxony within the North German Confederation. On the other hand, His Majesty the Emperor of Austria promises to recognise the changes about to be made in North Germany by His Majesty the King of Prussia, territorial changes included.

"ARTICLE 7.—In order to settle the property of the late Bund a Commission shall meet at Frankfort-on-the-Maine within, at most, six weeks after the ratification of the present Treaty, at which all formal claims and demands upon the German Bund are to be made, and to be liquidated within six months. Prussia and Austria will be represented in this Commission, and all the States belonging to the late Bund are allowed the same privilege.

"ARTICLE 8.—Austria is at liberty to take from the forts of the late Bund all that belongs to the Empire, and from the moveable property of the Bund the proportionate share of Austria, or otherwise to dispose thereof. This provision extends to all the moveable property of the Bund.

"ARTICLE 9.—The civil officers, servants, and pensioners of the Bund will receive the pensions already accorded in due proportion, but the Royal Prussian Government undertakes to manage the pensions and allowances hitherto paid from the Treasury of the Bund to the officers of the late Schleswig-Holstein army and their families.

"ARTICLE 10.—The allowance of the pensions granted by the Imperial Austrian Government in Holstein is agreed upon. The sum of 449,500 dollars Danish in 4 per cent. Danish bonds now lodged in the hands of the Imperial Austrian Government, and belonging to the Holstein Treasury, will be repaid immediately after the ratification of this Treaty. No adherent of the Duchies of Holstein and Schleswig, and no subject of their Majesties the King of Prussia and the Emperor of Austria, is to be prosecuted, troubled, or in any way molested in his person or his property on account of his political position during recent events and the recent war.

"ARTICLE 11.—In order to defray a portion of the expenses incurred by Prussia on account of the war, His Majesty the Emperor of Austria promises to pay to His Majesty the King of Prussia the sum of 40,000,000 Prussian dollars. From this sum, however, the amount of the costs of war which, by virtue of the 12th Article of the before-mentioned Treaty of Vienna of the 30th of October, 1864, His Majesty the Emperor claims from the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, and which are valued at 15,000,000 Prussian dollars

together with 5,000,000 Prussian dollars as an equivalent for the free maintenance of the Prussian army in the Austrian States which it occupied till the conclusion of the peace, is to be deducted, so that only 20,000,000 Prussian dollars remain to be paid. Of this sum half is to be paid on the exchange of the ratifications of this Treaty, the other half three weeks afterwards.

"ARTICLE 12.—The evacuation of the Austrian territories now occupied by the Royal Prussian troops will be completed within three weeks after the exchange of the ratifications of the Treaty. From the day of such exchange the Prussian General Governments will confine their operations to purely military matters. The details with respect to the manner in which this evacuation is to be effected are settled in a separate protocol, which forms an appendix to this Treaty.

"ARTICLE 13.—All treaties and agreements made by the high contracting parties before the war are hereby revived in full force, so far as they are not invalidated by the dissolution of the German Bund. More especially the General Convention between the States of the German Confederation on the 10th of February, 1831, together with more recent resolutions thereto appertaining, will remain in full force as between Prussia and Austria. The Imperial Austrian Government declares, however, that the Coinage Treaty of the 24th of February, 1857, is deprived of its chief value for Austria by the dissolution of the German Bund, and the Royal Prussian Government declares itself ready to join with Austria and the other interested parties in the negotiations that may arise on the abolition of this Treaty. The high contracting parties likewise agree that as soon as possible they will enter into negotiations for a revision of the Commercial Treaty of the 11th of April, 1865, with a view to a further alleviation of burdens on both sides. In the meanwhile, the said Treaty is restored to its full force, with this provision, that both the high contracting parties reserve to themselves the right to cancel it after six months' notice.

"ARTICLE 14.—The ratifications of the present Treaty shall be exchanged at Prague within a week, or, if possible, within a shorter period.

"In witness whereof, &c.

"WERTHER.

"BRENNER.

"PRAGUE, August 23d, 1866."

The ratifications of this treaty were exchanged on the 29th August at Prague.

On the 28th, Prince Frederick Charles broke up his head-quarters at Prague, and the whole of the Prussian troops who had been lying in Bohemia and Moravia during the progress of the negotiations for peace between Prussia and Austria commenced their march back towards the Prussian frontier. The men were not sorry to leave Bohemia, for the cholera had been among them during their stay in that country, and many had fallen victims to it.

On the evening of the 26th, General Von Lengsfeld, the commander of the artillery of the First Army, was carried off after two day's illness—the third Prussian general who had died from cholera since the commencement of the armistice.

As a consequence of the exchange of the ratifications of peace, the Prussian troops began to vacate Austrian territory, and by the 18th of August there was not a spiked helmet or a needle-gun in Bohemia or Moravia. The Guards, the third, fifth, and sixth corps d'armée marched by road; the other corps were moved by railway. The first corps moved by Oderberg, the second by Görlitz, the fourth from Brünn by Prague, the eighth by Nürnberg and Aschaffenburg, the fourteenth division by Gera and Cassel to Hanover, the second reserve corps by Hof. The Army of the Maine held its position until peace was concluded with Hesse-Darmstadt.

A Prussian garrison had already occupied Mayence, the keys of the fortress having been handed over by the Bavarians, who were in garrison there, as soon as peace

was concluded between Prussia and Bavaria.¹ What right Bavaria had to deliver up the fortress, which her troops avowedly only held as representatives of the forces of the Bund, no one can tell ; but as no German Power was in a position to remonstrate, and as France, who was more concerned than any other European Power in the fate of Mayence, appeared to consent, though not quite tacitly, to the arrangement, the Prussian colours waved without molestation over the fortifications which guard the mouth of the valley of the Maine.

On the 27th the unwounded prisoners who had been captured during the campaign were exchanged at Oderberg. The Prussians liberated 523 Austrian officers and 35,036 non-commissioned officers and men ; but this was not the total muster-roll of the Austrian prisoners who fell into the hands of the enemy, for 13,000 wounded who could not yet be removed still remained in Prussian hospitals. Austria gave back about 450 Prussian unwounded non-commissioned officers and men, and about 120 wounded were unable to be moved. There were also seven Prussian officers liberated. On the same day about 5,000 prisoners, who had been taken from the Bavarian and Hesse-Cassel troops, were released.

Count Bismarck, who was formerly a major of cuirassiers, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel ; but this promotion was not his reward for the part he has taken in late events ; it occurred only in the natural order of things. The head-quarters of Prince Frederick Charles moved by rail to the Prussian capital.

Berlin was very empty : the usual garrison and the

¹ See page 274.

crowds of officers who generally fill the streets were all away with the army. Over many doors were painted up the red crosses which marked that within subscriptions were received for the military hospitals and wounded. At the doors of the public offices, and at those of several shops and hotels, little padlock-boxes painted with the black and white stripes of the Prussian colours, and labelled "*Für die Verwundete*," invited the alms of those who loitered or who passed by. Here and there a convalescent soldier was seen, with his hand bandaged up or his arm in a sling. Preparations were, however, being made for the triumphal entry of the army, when the lamentations of the maimed and the wailings of widows and orphan children were to be drowned in the clash of military bands, and the applause of the crowd. Would not the money that this festival cost have been better expended on the families of those who died, and on the men who had been rendered unable to work for their livelihood, in fighting the battles which had given so much glory and so many broad miles to Prussia? Military pensions were very low. Widows with helpless children and disabled men who could labour no longer for bread could hardly regard one day's acclamations from an excited populace as a compensation for a life-long misery.

In the first sitting of the Special Committee of the Prussian House of Deputies on the loan demanded, which was held on the 29th August, the total cost of the war was stated by Government to amount to 88,000,000 thalers. The single items were as follows:—1. Mobilization of eleven corps d'armée at 42,000 men each, 25,500,000 thalers. 2. Current expenditure of the

war till the end of August, 33,800,000 thalers. 3. Demobilization of the troops, 1,700,000 thalers. 4. Resupplying the depôts of arms and clothing after the war, 27,000,000 thalers. To the total of 88,000,000 resulting from the above must be added 20,000,000 to defray the cost of keeping the army on a war footing till January 1, 1867. The liabilities incurred mostly remained to be liquidated, having hitherto been met only by 20,000,000 of cash taken from the reserve fund, 4,343,000 thalers obtained by the sale of railway stock, and some 12,000 thalers of surplus moneys from the finance administration of 1865. Large quantities of victuals and other stores were furnished by Prussian and foreign subjects, but the former, though legally obliged to contribute *gratis* horses, corn, &c. while the war lasted, had to be paid within a year of its close. The amount of this and other debts contracted by the Government for railway transport, &c. was not specially mentioned in the reports published. About one-half of the costs were covered by the sums exacted from the defeated States, estimated at a total of 15,143,000 thalers. Surely the Prussian successes have been cheaply acquired, if about 43,000,000 thalers, with 20,000,000 more to insure the maintenance of peace during the next three months, were all that had to be actually invested. To pay off debts and replenish the Exchequer, a loan of 60,000,000 thalers was demanded by the Government. The Ministers also asked to be empowered to sell some 30,000,000 thalers' worth of railway shares belonging to lines hitherto in part the property of Government, but lately disposed of for the above-mentioned sum. Of the

money thus realized 27,500,000 thalers were to be added to the reserve fund to raise it to the normal height of 40,000,000 thalers, while the remainder was to be employed on two iron-plated vessels, which were being constructed and already partly paid for. Another interesting item of future expenditure occasioned by the war was formed by the contemplated purchase of one more iron-plated vessel for 2,800,000 thalers, and the strengthening of fortresses at a cost of 3,500,000 thalers. To meet these sums the Finance Minister had 4,000,000 thalers, the contribution levied on Frankfort, in hand, and hoped to realize 2,557,000 thalers more from the sale of horses on the demobilization of the army.

On the 20th and 21st September, the Prussian fêtes, to celebrate the return of the army, took place at Berlin. All the evening of the 19th and till late in the dark hours of the morning of the 20th workmen were busy by torchlight finishing the preparations for the festival, and at sunrise on the 20th the whole of Berlin was decked in holiday garb. From every spire, steeple, and dome, from the heavy tower of the Cathedral and rounded cupola of the Royal Schloss, from every house-top and balcony, waved or fluttered a thick, rustling crowd of banners, streamers, and gonfalons. In most of the side streets lines stretched from house to house across the way supported flags, which swayed backward and forwards above the heads of the restless, ever-moving crowd which thronged the avenues leading to the Linden, while in the Linden itself every house was decorated with festoons of evergreen and laurel, and showed prominently from some balcony or window the

black and white colours of Prussia, often coupled with the crimson and white of the town of Berlin, which, fluttering in the light breeze and the bright sunlight, gave an appearance of intense lightness and life to the heavy masses of building which fringe the street. In the centre, where between the two paved carriage-roads the avenue of the lindens runs from the Brandenburg Gate to the open space in front of the Royal Palace, the captured guns were ranged in double line below the trees, with their muzzles pointed inwards towards each other, but with a wide space of some fifteen yards' interval between them, through which the troops that were to make their triumphal entry were to pass. Round the bright yellow barrels of the brass ordnance were wreathed garlands of green leaves, which were in many cases prolonged so as to cover the spokes of the wheels or the yellow-painted trails. In line with the guns and the intervals between them were erected trophies, some representing golden cannon grouped together in artistic confusion, others swords, bayonets, helmets, and muskets, but all bearing groups of the special flags of the different provinces of the kingdom, surmounted by a black and white banner, which carried in its centre the double eagle of Prussia. From lamp-post to lamp-post, themselves hidden in masses of foliage, from trophy to trophy, stretched garlands of evergreens, so that from the top of the avenue near the Brandenburg Gate to the equestrian statue of Frederick the Great, opposite the Palace, one long wreath of laurel fringed the way by which the home-returning warriors were to advance to the open space in front of Blücher's statue,

where they were to march past the King. The Brandenburg Gate itself was converted into a temporary arch of triumph. On its summit stood a line of flagstuffs, from which waved long standards that floated heavily even in the brisk breeze above the head of the bronze figure of Victory which adorned the summit, while on either face heavy draperies of bright-coloured bunting hid beneath their well-arranged folds the stonework and the preparations for the evening's illuminations. Before daylight people began to assemble in the street, and to take up places from which the march of the troops could be advantageously seen, and by nine o'clock a double line of spectators fringed the Linden Avenue, while the pavement of the street, which, being a little higher, gave an advantageous position, was thickly crowded. Most of the windows were well filled, but the number of lookers-on was not so great as might have been expected, and neither the streets nor the houses were so thickly occupied as were those in London on the entrance of the Princess of Wales before her marriage. Still, the number of people that collected to see the entrance was very large, and large tribunes which had been erected in the Pariser Platz, just within the Brandenburg Gate, were thickly crowded with ladies.

A little before eleven, the hour arranged for the troops to enter the town, the King left the Palace, and, followed by his staff, rode up the avenue towards the Brandenburg Gate, outside of which he was to meet the troops. He was enthusiastically greeted, and a loud swell of shouts of welcome traced his path till he disappeared through the gate. The Queen and the Crown Princess,

with the Royal children, followed in a carriage, and met with a similar reception from the people, and in other carriages, which were equally cheered, the Queen Dowager, the Princess Frederick Charles, and the Princess of the Netherlands, who all drove out to the place where the soldiers assembled before their entrance into the town. Outside the gate the King was received by the troops with due honours and some ringing cheers, which had hardly died away before he had passed along the line, quickly followed by the carriages which contained the ladies of the Court, and then took up his post in front of the troops. The line of march was rapidly formed, and the head of the column began moving towards the Brandenburg Gate, while the Royal carriages turned and drove quickly back again down to the Linden Avenue, where their occupants were again loudly greeted, so that the ladies might from the windows of the Crown Prince's palace witness the parade in front of Blücher's statue.

A few minutes after the carriages had passed down, the head of the triumphal column began to wind in at the gate, led by Field Marshal Count Wrangel, behind whom came a large mass of staff-officers and the military attachés to the various Embassies. After a short interval rode General Von Roon, the Minister of War, and General Von Moltke, the Chief of the Staff of the King. The greeting accorded to these two, the organizer and the director of the movements of the army, was loud and long, as also that to the two Generals who immediately followed them, Von Voigt-Rhetz and Blumenthal, who had been the Chiefs of the Staff of the First and Second

Armies during the campaign. Behind these generals came their adjutants, assistants, and aides-de-camp, and the whole of the staff-officers of the two armies. There was then a pause, and an interval of some hundreds of yards in the column, for the King had halted inside the gate to receive an address from the magistracy of the town, and it was some minutes before he himself appeared. But when he came, and close behind him the Crown Prince and Prince Frederick Charles were seen riding side by side, the enthusiasm of the people rose high. Hats were taken off and waved in the air, handkerchiefs fluttered from every window, and the cheering went up from the crowded street, and was echoed by the houses with that mighty roar which rises from a great multitude when its heart is touched. Behind the Commanders-in-chief of the First and Second Armies rode Prince Charles, the commander of the whole artillery, Prince Albrecht, the leader of the cavalry corps of the First Army, Prince Alexander, and Prince Adalbert.

The troops followed, preceded by a small detachment carrying the standards taken in the war, which were borne this day through Berlin by the men who had taken them in battle. Close behind came the Potsdam regiment of Guards, with the Prince of Würtemberg at its head, but the usual fine marching of this splendid regiment was spoilt by the narrowness of way along which it moved, and by the anxiety of the soldiers to exchange greetings with their friends in the crowd, a lack of discipline which to-day was excused. Nor did the big men of this regiment present the same imposing appearance as usual, for most spectators saw them from windows raised

above the street, the result of which was to give even these large men a dwarfed appearance, and it was only by comparing them with the lines of people through whom they passed that one could actually realize their true stature. Behind these followed the 3d infantry regiment of the Guard. These two regiments formed the first brigade of the Guard, and were commanded by General Alvensleben. The second brigade consisted of the fusiliers of the Guard and of the 2d infantry regiment. The latter marched into Berlin without helmets, for the cumbersome head-dresses of which they undertook to relieve themselves at the action of Trautenau had not yet been replaced; but the people cheered them enthusiastically, for they were the heroes of Rosberitz, and the regiment which left so many of its soldiers round the spot where General Hiller fell.

The next brigade was composed of the Jägers of the Guard—riflemen recruited from all the foresters and gamekeepers of Prussia, renowned marksmen, who had done much hard duty during the campaign, and reaped their reward in the loud applause of the people of Berlin—and of a battalion of the Guard of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg. The entrance of this battalion was a compliment on the part of the Prussian Government to Mecklenburg in return for the loyal manner in which that State stood by Prussia before and during the war, and the people ratified the compliment by the loud greeting they gave to these troops as they passed down the Linden by bursts of cheering, which were renewed again and again.

After the infantry came the scarlet and gold regiment

of hussars of the Guard, followed by small detachments which represented the 12th light blue and silver Weissenfels hussars, who suffered so severely at Königgrätz, the 3d dragoons, who were nearly cut to pieces by their rough *mêlée* with the Austrian cuirass brigade at the same battle, and the Magdeburg hussars, who cleared the way for the Prussian infantry at Blumenau ; after these the artillery, in a long column, which marched with two guns abreast, decorated with flowers and garlands. As the troops came out of the Linden Avenue and entered the wide, open space in front of the Palace, they formed upon a broader front, and marched past the King, who took his place in front of the statue of Blücher, with his staff around him, when by an accidental but curious coincidence General Moltke was placed below the statue of Gneisenau, the Chief of the Staff in the War of Independence. Here the whole of the force passed before the Sovereign, and then filed across the bridge over the Spree, and their glittering bayonets and shining helmet spikes disappeared into the streets beyond, still cheered by the crowds in the street and houses until the last were lost sight of. By one o'clock the whole of the troops had passed, and the people quickly separated to go to their homes, for every citizen of Berlin entertained a detachment of the men who made their entry—the rich larger, the poorer smaller numbers, but all some.

A fall of rain during the night of the 20th laid the dust, which the previous day blew unpleasantly about the streets. A cloudy morning allowed the people who took up their places early to see the entry of the second portion of the troops who marched publicly into the

town to pass the hours of waiting without being incommoded by the glare which the day before was dazzling to the eyes, and after a time became almost painful. Those who had wished to obtain good places from which to see the troops pass did not this morning take up their positions so very early as they did the day before, since it was found that the crowd was not so great as might have been expected, and many discovered that they had taken a needless precaution by being in the Linden before daybreak. The consequence was that the people were more animated, since they were not already weary before the proceedings commenced. The enthusiasm was greater, the cheering was louder, and there was generally an appearance of more vivacity, enjoyment, and relish on the part of both the populace and the soldiery.

The arrangements and general decorations were much the same as on the previous day. The ground between the Brandenburg Gate and the Schloss, or old Palace of Berlin, which is now not inhabited by the Sovereign, but used for official and state occasions, was divided into four portions. The first was the Pariser Platz, which lies just inside the Brandenburg Gate, and was used as the place of the formal greeting of the King by the magistracy and a detachment of fifty-five young ladies, who presented an address in poetry. The second portion was the Linden Avenue, in the centre of the Linden Street, down which the troops marched, and which in the Berlin triumph played the same part as the Via Sacra in those of Ancient Rome. The third portion was the open space which extends from the statue of Frederick the Great to the bridge over the Spree, in which the troops marched

past the King ; and the fourth was the open place and garden in front of the Schloss, which was used for the celebration of the *Te Deum*, which this afternoon was sung after the last of the troops had marched past. On each side of the Pariser Platz tribunes were raised for spectators, which were entirely draped with the red and white colours of the town of Berlin. Behind these, numerous masts were raised, which bore gonfalons of the black and white Prussian colours, with silver-coloured shields deviced with the eagle of Prussia or the bear of Berlin. On either side of the entrance to the Linden Avenue from the Pariser Platz tall trophies were erected, which bore groups of alternate Prussian and Berlin flags, raised above pedestals formed of gilt cannon. Along either side of the Linden Avenue were raised on pedestals, hidden in masses of garlands of laurels and oak leaves, gilt bronze figures of Victory, each of which bore upon a shield with azure ground the name and date of one of the actions of the war, inscribed in golden letters ; round these shields were bronze borders, on the top of which was placed the Prussian eagle, while above the head of the figure drooped the national flag, supported on either side by the more cheerful colours of the metropolis. The height from the ground to the top of the flagstaff over each figure was 32 feet. The names of the battles inscribed on these shields were :—June 26, Liebenau, Törnau, Podoll ; June 27, Nachod ; June 27, Langensalza ; June 27, Oswiecin ; June 27, Hünernwasser ; June 28, Münchengrätz ; June 28, Soor ; June 28, Trautenau ; June 28, Skalitz ; June 29, Gitschin ; June 29, Königshof ; June 29, Jaromier, Schweinschädel ;

July 3, Königgrätz ; July 4, Dermbach ; July 5, Hünfeld ; July 5, Zell ; July 10, Waldaschach, Hausen ; July 10, Hammelburg, Friedericsshall ; July 10, Kissingen ; July 13, Laufach ; July 14, Aschaffenburg ; July 15, Tobitschau ; July 22, Blumenau ; July 23, Hof ; July 24, Tauber-Bischofsheim ; July 24, Werbach, Hochhausen ; July 25, Neubrunn, Helmstadt ; July 25, Gerchsheim ; July 26, Roszbrunn ; July 28, Würzburg ; July 28, Baireuth.

In the alternate spaces between these figures stood on each side of the avenue square pedestals ten feet high, each crowned with a gilt eagle with wings outspread. On the sides of these pedestals were inscribed, as a memorial of the manner in which Berlin heard of the successes of the army, the telegrams received from the seat of war which told of each victory. In the space of each of these pedestals and the trophies on either side bearing the names of the battles were placed two candelabra, each ten feet high, formed of a bronze stalk, standing on a triangular pedestal swathed with laurel wreaths, and terminating at the summit in a gilt basin, which was used in the illumination for burning coloured lights. All these trophies, pedestals, and candelabra were connected together by festoons of green foliage, which drooped down so as almost to kiss the bright barrels of the captured guns, which were placed between the works of art, and were themselves wreathed with garlands. Two hundred and eight guns, one hundred and four on each side, stood in the Linden Avenue, with their muzzles still begrimed with powder, in a line with the pedestals and figures, and their trails just inside the

lines of linden trees which give the name to the street. More cannon might have been exhibited as spoils of the war, for many more were taken ; but it was resolved that only those which were captured in open battle should be here, and those which were seized in arsenals or fortified places that fell into the hands of the victors were not brought out for this festival. Only at the places where cross streets cut the Linden Avenue were these festoons interrupted. At the four corners of each crossing four tall obelisks were raised on triangular bases, which were wound round with spirals of foliage and decorated with the flags of the provinces and allies of Prussia, while from the top of each the national standard floated fifty feet above the ground. On each corner of the triangular pedestal was placed a golden eagle, and diagonally from obelisk to obelisk festoons were stretched, from which hung shields carrying the arms of Prussia and Berlin on either side.

From the end of the Linden Avenue to the bridge over the river the open space was left clear for the marching past of the troops, but tall masts were raised on either side, from the summits of which long streamers fluttered, and festoons were led from one to the other. On either parapet of the bridge four marble statues of Victory were placed, behind which hung flags and drapery, supported by masts raised from rafts anchored in the river.

The large square in front of the Schloss beyond the bridge was surrounded with black and white painted poles, each of which carried the Hohenzollern shield, surmounted by a banner. In the centre was placed the altar for the public *Te Deum*. A square pedestal,

four feet high and forty-eight feet long, supported at each corner a figure of the Angel of Peace, with a palm branch in her hand, and in the centre of each side a statue of Victory distributing laurel crowns, while between the figures flights of low and easy steps, covered with rich carpeting, were placed for the officiating priests. Further steps led from the pedestals to the altar-place, which was raised seven feet higher, and, surrounded by golden candelabra, supported the altar, draped in velvet, above which stood the golden cross, heavy with mouldings of exquisite workmanship.

Behind the altar, between it and the heavy pile of the dome-topped Schloss, rose a towering statue of Borussia, the classical cognomen of Prussia. With eagle-crowned helmet on her head, the sceptre with the iron cross grasped in her left hand, and her right stretching forth the crown of victory, the figure was placed there as a token to signify that their country considered that her warriors had done well. On either side stood tall trophies of drooped flags and intermingled arms, the pedestals of which bore the names of the most glorious deeds of Prussian arms in the last two centuries. Emblazoned in letters of gold beside Königgrätz, Kissingen, and Skalitz, were Fehrbellin, 1675 ; Stralsund, 1678 ; Hohenfriedberg, 1745 ; Prague, 1757 ; Rossbach, 1757 ; Leuthen, 1757 ; Zorndorf, 1758 ; Leipzig, 1813 ; Paris, 1814 ; Belle-Alliance, 1815. On either side these trophies were ranged figures of the Electors of Brandenburg and Kings of Prussia ; under each was written his motto, war cry, or favourite expression, with the date of his accession and death. Some of the most striking of

these were those of Albrecht Achilles, 1470-1486, "Nowhere is it more glorious to die than on the field of battle ;" of Friederich Wilhelm, 1640-1688, "Mit Gott ;" and Friederich Wilhelm III., "1797-1840, "My time in trouble, my hope in God."

A few minutes before eleven, the King, at the head of his staff, and closely followed by the Crown Prince and Prince Frederick Charles, passed quickly up the Linden towards the Brandenburg Gate. A long, rolling cheer marked his approach, which swelled into a louder and louder shout as he came nearer ; from every window handkerchiefs were waved and Prussian colours fluttered, while in the street below every head was uncovered, and the exultant people, with all the strength of their hundred thousand voices, roared out their greeting to their Sovereign. The King stopped for a few minutes in the Pariser Platz, and spoke to the wounded, who, still not recovered sufficiently to march in the ranks, were seated in front of the tribunes on either side, then went through the Brandenburg Gate, to place himself at the head of the troops and lead them into the town. The carriages of the ladies of the Royal family followed soon after, and met with an equally enthusiastic reception as the King himself, both as they went up toward the Brandenburg Gate and on their return after a short inspection of the troops outside the town. Soon the Count Wrangel, who again led the column, came down the avenue, and was greeted very warmly. After him the King's staff followed in the same order as before, last of whom rode side by side the triumvirate to whom so much of Prussia's success was due—Bismarck, Roon, and Moltke,

to-day all three generals, for the Prime Minister was promoted to that rank the previous day. A considerable space separated the staff from the King himself, for he had to hear again to-day the address of the magistracy which he had already received on the former day, and to listen to the poetical welcome delivered by the chief of the detachment of fifty-one young ladies. When he came he was welcomed as loudly, or even more so, than before, more loudly than the day before, for the people were less fatigued by waiting, and were not annoyed by the dust which blew about among them yesterday. From the time the King came down the avenue with the Crown Prince and Prince Frederick Charles close behind him one incessant shout was maintained until the whole of the troops had passed, which sometimes rose very loud, sometimes slightly fell, but never died away entirely.

The troops which marched in this day were the brigades of the Guards which did not come in before, and some detachments as representatives of Line regiments. All were greeted loudly, especially the 2d dragoons of the Guard, who defeated the Austrian cavalry at Tischnowitz. To those, however, who had seen the same troops in the field, or directly after the campaign, their appearance was disappointing. The soldiers marched carelessly, and did not preserve either the even formation or the measured swinging stride which distinguishes the Prussian infantry on its usual parades. The day seemed to be regarded only as a holiday and festival, and much more attention was paid to friends in the houses, or alongside the avenue, than to the maintenance of that

perfect order in the ranks which is generally so rigidly observed.

After the troops had marched by the King, a portion of them were formed up in the square in front of the Schloss around the altar. The King, the Prince, the staff, and the generals came to the same place, and in the name of the army and nation yielded up their hearts in thanksgiving to Heaven, while hundreds of priests burst forth into the noblest of all songs of praise to the Lord of Hosts and the God of Victories.

On the evening of the 21st, the King assembled twelve hundred of the generals and principal officers who had served in the campaign at dinner in the Schloss. In the later part of the evening the town was illuminated. Directly after dark the whole city was lighted up. The Schloss was surrounded by rows of lamps, which stood out bright against the heavy and indistinct background of the massive building, while circlets of coloured lights, high up in the dome, seemed as if suspended in the air without support. Opposite the Schloss bright blue lights burnt, and, raised high upon lofty poles, glistened like stars of dazzling brightness above the Museum. These cast a fitful and almost mysterious glow upon the restless crowds, who, notwithstanding the rain, which began to fall early in the afternoon, thronged every street, and clustered in thick swarms around the fountain in front of the Museum, where gas jets introduced among the pipes, from which the water played, glistened through the sparkling cascade. Every house was illuminated. On public buildings and in many private residences were fiery copies of the national arms, or names of victories

inscribed in flame. Down the Linden Avenue and round the statue of Frederick the Great large basins raised on bronze stalks contained blazing flambeaux, which blew about wildly in the breeze. In many places words of welcome to the returning soldiers or mottoes recording victory were traced in lamps, which burnt with coloured flames, but nowhere was to be seen a single signal of congratulation for the return of peace. Every fiery inscription, every device of flame, told the fierce joy of the people for victory and conquest, and to the minds of many men foreboded that thirst for further war and for military glory was taking a strong seat in the heart of Prussia. Where the exterior of the houses was not decked with lamps, or where burning gas did not trace the outlines of the national eagle or the names of victories, inside of the windows were fringes of candles. Everywhere there was light. No window was dark, no house not illuminated, except where the Austrian or some of the neutral Embassies broke, by a gap of darkness, the brilliant aspect of a lighted street. There were few carriages. The people moved through the city a restless, feverish crowd, from which rose a loud continuous hum of approbation and of triumph, that here and there swelled into a cheer before the residence of a Minister or the Palace of the King.

A long list of promotions and military advancements was published that day, and it was also notified that a cross of bronze cast from the metal of the captured cannon was to be given to every officer and soldier who had passed through the campaign.

An amnesty, dated the 20th June, was published

the same morning, which remitted any punishments not yet completed, or any fines which had been decreed by courts of justice against persons convicted of offences under the 87th to 93d paragraphs of the statute-book inclusive, and under the 97th to 103d, or under the law for the control of the press.

In the evening special performances were given in all the theatres in honour of the triumphant termination of the war. Prologues were delivered which detailed the glorious deeds of the army, and the plays, which were written for the occasion, dwelt upon the actions and personal adventures of the late campaign, and recalled the memories of the concluding wars of the first French Empire.

CHAPTER V.

PEACE WITH THE SOUTH-GERMAN STATES.

ON the 2d August, armistices between Prussia and Bavaria, Baden, Würtemberg, and Hesse-Darmstadt, were established, which were to endure until the 22d August. The terms of these armistices were similar to those made with Austria ; by them stipulations were also made for the delivery of the fortress of Mainz to the Prussians, and for the unimpeded departure of the South-German contingents from the other Federal fortresses.

By the 22d August, peace was definitely concluded between Prussia and the Governments of all those countries, except that of Darmstadt.

The treaty of peace with Bavaria was signed at Berlin on the 22d of August, by Count Bismarck and Herr Von Savigny for Prussia, by Herr Von der Pfordten and Count Bray Steinburg for Bavaria. By it Bavaria agreed to pay Prussia thirty million gulden as a war contribution in three instalments, the last instalment to be paid within six months of the exchange of the ratifications ; to abolish the shipping dues on the Rhine and Maine ; and to give up the telegraph stations on the north of the

Maine to Prussia. The ratifications were exchanged within twelve days.

Peace with Würtemberg was concluded at Berlin on the 13th August. The text of this treaty was as follows:—

“ Their Majesties the King of Würtemberg and the King of Prussia, actuated by the desire of securing to their subjects the blessings of peace, have determined to come to an agreement as to the clauses of a Treaty of Peace to be concluded between them. For this purpose their Majesties have appointed as plenipotentiaries—The King of Würtemberg, his Minister for Foreign Affairs, Baron Karl von Varnbuler, Grand Cross, &c. ; and his War Minister, Lieutenant-General Oscar von Hardegg, Grand Cross, &c. ; and the King of Prussia, his President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Otto von Bismarck-Schönhausen, Knight of the Black Eagle, &c., and his Privy Councillor, Chamberlain, and Ambassador Karl Friederich von Savigny, Grand Cross, &c. These plenipotentiaries having exchanged powers and found them sufficient, have agreed upon the following clauses:—

“ 1. Peace and friendship shall henceforth subsist for ever between His Majesty the King of Würtemberg and His Majesty the King of Prussia, their heirs and successors, their States and subjects.

“ 2. His Majesty the King of Würtemberg engages to pay His Majesty the King of Prussia the sum of 8,000,000*fl.* within two months, towards covering part of the costs incurred by Prussia in the war. By payment of this sum the King of Würtemberg fulfils the compensation obligations undertaken by him in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the armistice convention, signed August 1, 1866, at Eisingen and Würzburg.

“ 3. As pledge for the payment of this sum the King of Würtemberg will deposit $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 per cent. Würtemberg State Bonds to the amount of the sum to be guaranteed. The bonds to be deposited will be calculated at the quotations of the day, and the guarantee sum will be increased by 10 per cent. accordingly.

“ 4. His Majesty the King of Würtemberg retains the right of paying the above-mentioned compensation in part, or wholly, at an earlier date, at a discount of 5 per cent. per annum.

" 5. Immediately after the guarantee being given, in accordance with Article 3, or after payment of the war contribution has been made, the King of Prussia will withdraw his troops from Württemberg territory. The provisionment of the troops during their withdrawal shall be according to the hitherto existing Federal dietary scale.

" 6. The apportionment of Federal property belonging to the former Germanic Confederation is reserved for a special agreement.

" 7. The high contracting parties will enter into negotiations for the settlement of the Zollverein relations immediately after the conclusion of peace. In the meantime the Zollverein Union Treaty of May 16, 1855, and the conventions connected therewith, which have been rendered inoperative by the outbreak of the war, shall again come into operation from the day the ratifications of this present treaty are exchanged, with the understanding that it remains reserved to either of the high contracting parties to allow them to lapse after a notification of six months.

" 8. Immediately after the restoration of peace in Germany the high contracting parties will cause the assembly of Commissioners to agree upon bases calculated to further passenger and goods' traffic upon the railways as greatly as possible, especially to regulate the relations of competition in a suitable manner, and to oppose the efforts of individual companies disadvantageous to the public interests of traffic. While the high contracting parties are agreed that the establishment of every new railway line conducive to the public advantage is to be permitted and supported as fully as possible, they will also have the principles demanded in this respect by the general interests laid down by the aforesaid Commissioners.

" 9. His Majesty the King of Württemberg recognises the arrangements made by the preliminary treaty concluded between Prussia and Austria at Nikolsburg on the 20th of July, 1866, and acceded thereto upon his part also, so far as they affect the future of Germany.

" 10. The ratification of this present treaty shall take place at latest by the 21st of August of this year. In token whereof the above-named plenipotentiaries have executed the same this day in duplicate, and appended their signatures and seals.

" Done at Berlin this 13th of August, 1866.

" VARNBULER,
" VON BISMARCK,

" HARDEGG,
" SAVIGNY."

Peace with Baden was concluded at Berlin on the 17th August. The first, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth articles were the same as those of the treaty with Würtemberg; the tenth and eleventh the same as the ninth and tenth of that with Würtemberg. By the second, third, and fourth articles, Baden agreed to pay Prussia six million gulden within two months, as a war contribution. By the ninth article, Baden agreed to abolish the shipping dues on the Rhine.

Peace with Hesse-Darmstadt was only concluded on the 3d September, to which day the armistice was extended. The text of this treaty was, exclusive of the prologue, as follows :—

“ 1. Peace and friendship shall exist between the Grand Duke of Hesse, and on the Rhine, &c., and His Majesty the King of Prussia, their heirs and successors, for eternal time.

“ 2. The Grand Duke of Hesse engages to pay to the King of Prussia within two months the sum of 3,000,000 florins, to cover a part of the expenses caused to Prussia by the war. By the payment of this sum the Grand Duke is released from his obligation to pay the war contribution which he undertook by the Treaty of Armistice on the 1st of August, 1866.

“ 3. The Grand Duke provides guarantees for the payment of this money by depositing bonds of the Grand Ducal Loan, when the 4 per cent. bonds will be accepted at 80 and the 3 per cent. at 70.

“ 4. The Grand Duke has the right to pay the above contribution either in whole or in part at an earlier date, and if he does so will be allowed a discount at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

“ 5. Immediately after the deposit of the guarantees mentioned in Article 3, the King of Prussia will withdraw his troops from the Grand Ducal territory. The supplying of the troops in their return march will be conducted in accordance with the supply regulations of the late Bund.

“ 6. The regulations for the disposal of common property which belonged to the late Bund are reserved for special agreement.

" 7. The high contracting powers will enter into negotiations directly after the conclusion of peace for the reform of the Zollverein Treaty. In the meantime the Zollverein Treaty of the 16th of May, 1865, and the agreements connected with it, will come again into force on the day of the exchange of the ratifications of the present treaty. Each party reserves the right to annul the same after six months' notice.

" 8. All other treaties and stipulations concluded between the high contracting Powers previous to the war come again into force.

" 9. The high contracting powers will, immediately after the establishment of peace in Germany, cause Commissioners to meet, in order to establish rules to facilitate as much as possible the railway transport of passengers and goods between the two States, and to oppose the pernicious effects of individual administration in favour of common interests; and as the high contracting powers are agreed that the establishment of a new railway communication based on their common interests should be allowed, and, as far as possible, furthered, they will cause the plans thereof to be settled by the above-mentioned Commissioners.

" 10. The Grand Ducal Government declares itself agreed to the conventions which Prussia has made with the princely House of Taxis for the abolition of the Thurn and Taxis postal monopoly. In consequence the whole postal administration of the Grand Duchy of Hesse is to be given over to Prussia.

" 11. The Grand Ducal Government binds itself to allow no other than a Prussian telegraph station in Mayence. In like manner the Grand Ducal Government cedes to Prussia unlimited power to construct and to use telegraph lines and telegraph stations in the other districts of the Grand Duchy.

" 12. The Grand Ducal Government will completely discontinue to levy navigation tolls on the Rhine, and also navigation dues (Tariff B in the Convention of the 31st of March, 1831), as also dues for lading (Supplementary Articles to the Convention of the 31st of March, 1831), from the day on which the same measure shall be adopted by the other German States on the banks of the Rhine. The high contracting parties undertake to do the same with regard to the still existing navigation tolls on the Maine.

" 13. The Grand Duke of Hesse recognises the Definitions of the Preliminary Treaty concluded between Prussia and Austria at Nikols-

burg, on the 26th July, 1866, and also on his part enters into the same as far as the future of Germany is concerned.

" 14. His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Hesse cedes to the King of Prussia with all rights of sovereignty and dominion—(1) the country of Hesse-Homburg, inclusive of the district of Meisenheim, but exclusive of the two demesnes Hötensleben and Oebisfelde belonging to Homburg, which lie in the Prussian province of Saxony. (2) The following portions of territory which belong to the province of Oberhessen:—(i.) the district of Biedenkopf; (ii.) the district of Vöhl, including the enclaves Eimelrod Höringhausen; (iii.) the north-western part of the district of Giessen, which includes Frankenberg, Krumbach, Königsburg, Fellingshausen, Biber, Haina, Rodheim, Waldgirmes, Nauheim, and Hermannstein, with the ground within their landmarks; (iv.) the district of Rödelheim; (v.) the part of the district of Nieder-Urfel which is under the Grand Ducal Sovereignty.

" 15. The Grand Duke of Hesse enters into the North German Confederation on the basis of the reform project of the 10th June, 1866, with all his territory lying north of the Maine, while he binds himself to cause the elections to Parliament to be in proportion to the numbers of the population. The Grand Ducal contingent from the territory separated in consequence of this and belonging to the Northern Confederation passes under the supreme command of the King of Prussia.

" 15. The King of Prussia cedes to the Grand Duke of Hesse, in lieu of the territorial cessions in the province of Oberhessen, the following districts, with all rights of sovereignty and dominion—

" (i.) The formerly Hesse-Cassel district Katzenberg, with the places Ohmes, Wolkenrode, Ruhlkirchen, Leibelsdorf.

" (ii.) The formerly Hesse-Cassel district Nauheim, with all rights of property, the bath establishments and salt works in Nauheim, as well as the places Dorheim, Nauheim, Schwalheim, and Rödchen.

" (iii.) The district of Reichelsheim which lies to the east of the above, and formerly belonged to Nassau, with the places Reichelsheim and Dornassenheim.

" (iv.) The enclave of Trais on the Lunda, which formerly belonged to Hesse-Cassel.

" (v.) The woodland demesne formerly belonging to Hesse-Cassel which lies between the Grand Ducal districts of Altenstadt and Bönstadt.

"(VI.) The districts of Dortelweil and Nieder-Erlenbach, which formerly belonged to Frankfort.

"(VII.) The district of Massenheim, which formerly belonged to Hesse-Cassel.

"(VIII.) The district of Haarheim, which formerly belonged to Nassau.

"(IX.) The portion of the district of Mittel-Gründau, of about 1,700 acres, which formerly belonged to Hesse-Cassel.

"These districts enter into the province of Oberhessen. In the next place, the district of Rumpenheim, which formerly belonged to Hesse-Cassel, lying on the left bank of the Maine, is ceded to the Grand Duke, with all rights. The descriptions of the boundary lines lie over.

"16. Agreements between the contracting Powers with reference to the archives, officials, military stores, &c. of the ceded districts will be concluded by Special Commissioners.

"17. The books, manuscripts, and other articles which were in the library of the Cathedral of Cologne previously to the year 1794, and are now in the Grand Ducal museum and library, are to be handed over to the King of Prussia that they may be restored to Cologne, to which the different volumes and articles belong. There shall be one Commissioner of either side, who in case of dispute are to choose each an impartial referee, to whom the case shall be referred.

"18. The Grand Ducal Government agrees to prolong the present contract between a number of bathing-house proprietors in the town of Kreuznach and the Grand Ducal salt work of Karl Theodor Hulle, for the supply of lixivium and salt water at the present rate, until the Prussian Government shall find itself able to acquire this salt-work.

"The Grand Ducal Government will also lay down pipes for the supply of this to Kreuznach.

"19. The ratification of the present Treaty shall take place at the latest on the 15th of September.

(Signed)

"DALWIGK.

BISMARCK.

"HOFMAN.

SAVIGNY."

A supplementary convention with reference to Articles 14 and 15 was to the following purpose :—

“ 1. Prussia enters into all rights hitherto possessed by the Hessian Government in the ceded districts, and pays pensions in the hitherto existing way. Officials and servants are guaranteed to be allowed to remain in their present situations if they will enter the Prussian service ; if they, however, return to the Hessian within three months after the close of this treaty, they are to be paid up to the time of their return by the Hessian Government. The same rule applies to the districts ceded to Hesse which formerly belonged to Nassau and Cassel. Soldiers who are of the rank of officers in the ceded districts shall be sent to their homes ; and their time of service in the Hessian army will be reckoned as if in the Prussian service. Officers and military officials ranking as officers are to be allowed to choose into which service they will enter.

“ 2. The Commissioners chosen by Article 16 of the Treaty will settle all matters of detail which are connected with the present negotiations.

“ 3. All the inhabitants of the ceded districts are to be allowed full freedom to settle in whichever country they choose for a year after the exchange of the ratifications.

“ 4. In the cession of the country of Hesse-Homburg, the pictures, library, and such things in the Ducal Castle are not included, as likewise the orangery. These all remain the private property of the Grand Ducal House.

“ 5. At the same time as the Prussian troops withdraw, the civil officers in the lands at present occupied will cease to act, and the Grand Ducal officials will return to their duty.

“ 6. It is understood that the same regulations for the post and telegraph services as are to come into force in the province of Oberhessen, from its being included in the Bund, are by this Treaty to be extended to the provinces of Stachenburg and Rheinhessen, which are south of the Maine.

“ 7. All prisoners of war are to be exchanged in eight days after the ratification of this Treaty.

“ 8. In reference to the right of garrisoning Mayence, which is to remain to Prussia, the same arrangements are to hold good between

the Prussian garrison and the territorial Government as did between the former garrison of Bund troops and the territorial Government.

"9. All telegraphic offices in Mayence must be entirely in the hands of the Prussian Government. The railway telegraphs will not be disturbed unless in cases of absolute necessity for the security of the fortress.

"10. The Grand Ducal Government is ready to surrender the direction of the administration of the Main-Weser Railway from the Hesse-Cassel frontier to Giessen into the hands of the Prussian Government, provided that the latter will give to the former a yearly account of its receipts.

"11. If the Prussian Government wishes to send troops returning from Bohemia or Bavaria by the Schwandorf to Würzburg line, the Grand Ducal Government will transport them, and will be paid for the same by the Prussian Government.

"12. No subject of the Grand Duke or of the King of Prussia is to be annoyed or disturbed in person or property on account of his conduct during the time of the war.

"13. In reference to Article 18 of the Treaty, it is understood that this article only holds good till the year 1892, if the said saltwork is not acquired by Prussia before that year.

"14. The ratifications of this convention are to be exchanged at the same time and place as those of the above Treaty."

CHAPTER VI.

FORMATION OF THE NORTH-GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

AFTER the war the Prussian Government determined to annex the territories of Hanover, Hesse-Cassel, Nassau, and the free town of Frankfort. On the 17th August, Count Bismarck introduced a bill into the Prussian House of Deputies for this annexation, which was carried by two hundred and seventy-three votes, in a house of three hundred members; and these territories became provinces of the Prussian monarchy. By the treaties with Austria, made before and after the war, Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenberg were also united to Prussia. The area of Prussia, which before the war was 127,350 square miles, was increased to 160,000. Her population was raised from 19,000,000 to 23,000,000 inhabitants.

In August the Governments of Prussia, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Saxe-Weimar, Oldenburg, Brunswick, Sachsen-Altenburg, Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, Anhalt, Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, Schwarzburg-Rodolstadt, Waldeck, Reusz (of the younger line), Schaumburg-Lippé, Lippé, Lübeck, Bremen, and Hamburg concluded an offensive and defensive treaty for the maintenance of the independence and integrity as well

as of the internal and external security of their States, and undertook a common defence of their territory, which they guaranteed by this treaty.

"2. The aims of the Confederation shall be definitely laid down by a Confederate Constitution on the basis of the Prussian outlines of the 10th of June, 1866, with the co-operation of a common Parliament which is to be called together.

"3. All existing treaties and agreements between the Confederates are to remain in full force, as far as they are not expressly modified by the present Federation.

"4. The troops of the Confederates are to be under the supreme command of the King of Prussia. The duties during war will be arranged by special settlements.

"5. The Confederate Governments will appoint votes to be taken on the basis of the elective law of the Empire of April 12, 1849, for deputies to the Parliament, and will call the latter together in common with Prussia. They shall also send Plenipotentiaries to Berlin, in order to settle the Bill of Confederation in accordance with the outlines of the 10th of June, 1866, which is to be laid before the Parliament for its consideration and approval.

"6. The duration of this agreement is until the formation of the new Confederation, and is settled for one year if the new Confederation is not concluded before the expiration of a year.

"7. The above Treaty of agreement shall be ratified and the ratifications exchanged as soon as possible, at the latest within three weeks of the date of its conclusion, at Berlin."

The only States north of the Maine which, on the conclusion of this treaty, were not united to Prussia in the North German confederacy, were Reusz (of the older line), Saxe Meiningen, and the Kingdom of Saxony. The Regent, Princess Caroline of Reusz, soon, however, concluded the same treaty with Prussia.

On the 20th September, Duke Bernhard of Saxe-Meiningen, who did not approve of the new order of

things, abdicated, and the new Duke, George, declared himself ready to enter the Confederation.

After a long delay, peace was finally concluded between Prussia and Saxony, on the 21st of October. By this treaty, Saxony entered the North-German Confederation. The Saxon troops were to form an integral portion of the North-German army, under the supreme command of the King of Prussia. Saxony was to pay a war contribution of ten millions of thalers,¹ in three instalments; the last instalment was to be paid on the 30th April, 1867; one million, however, was to be remitted, in consideration of Saxony giving up to Prussia so much of the railway between Görlitz and Dresden as ran on Prussian ground. A direct railway was to be constructed from Leipzig to Zeitz. All the Saxon telegraphs were to be given up to Prussia. The salt monopoly in Saxony was to be abolished. The fortress of Königstein was to be given over to Prussia; Dresden was to be held by a garrison half Prussian half Saxon, the latter not to muster more than three thousand men. The commandant was to be appointed by the King of Prussia, the second in command by the King of Saxony.

The conclusion of the treaty of peace with Saxony was virtually the last act in the formation of the North-German Confederacy. The Parliament had afterwards to agree formally to the settlement of the Confederation, as it did in the early months of 1867, but practically, Northern Germany was united into one confederate power under the sceptre of the House of Hohenzollern by the end of October, 1866.

¹ 1,500,000*l.*

BOOK X.

CHAPTER I.

THE WAR IN ITALY.

WHEN Prussia had declared that she regarded the Austrian proceedings at Frankfort as a declaration of war, King Victor Emmanuel, in consequence of his alliance with the Government of Berlin, declared war against Austria. On the 20th of June, General La Marmora, the chief of the staff of the Italian army, sent an intimation to the commandant of Mantua that hostilities would commence on the 23d. The Archduke Albrecht accepted the intimation, and made ready for action.

The theatre of war¹ in which the troops of Italy and those of the Austrian Army of the South were about to engage has formed one of the ordinary battle-fields of Europe. Its communications with Vienna lay along two lines. The railway which from the capital by way of Trieste runs through Goerz, Udine, Treviso, and Padua to Verona, connects Vienna with the Quadrilateral : and the line by Salzburg, Innsbrück, Botzen, and Roveredo, although not completed between Innsbrück and Botzen, afforded a subsidiary line for the supply of troops

¹ This theatre of war has been so frequently and so lately the scene of memorable campaigns, and so many

good maps of it exist, that it is thought unnecessary to supply one.

camped under the protection of the fortresses. The Quadrilateral itself consisted of the strongly intrenched camp of Verona, on the Adige, the smaller and less important fortress of Legnano, on the same river, the lately strengthened fortifications of Peschiera at the issue of the Mincio from the Lago di Garda, and the fortress of Mantua, which lies further down the Mincio, with its citadel and Fort St. George on the left bank, and its minor works on the right banks of the stream. The fortified Borgo Forte supports the line of the Mincio in front of the confluence of that river with the Po, while Venice, with many adjacent forts, protected the rear of the Quadrilateral towards the sea.

The Italians, in acting against the Quadrilateral with their army concentrated, could either advance across the Mincio and rush headlong against its parapets and embrasures, or, by advancing from the Lower Po, push towards Padua to cut the main line of communication with Vienna. General La Marmora had a very difficult problem to solve, and was not fortunate in the conditions he introduced into its solution. His information as to the Austrian designs was manifestly exceedingly faulty, while that of the Archduke Albrecht was excellent. The Italian general was bound to assume the offensive, for political reasons. Neglecting a plan for his campaign which had been forwarded from Berlin,¹

¹ The plan of campaign forwarded from Berlin is supposed to have been the product of General Von Moltke, and to have been as follows:—A corps of Italians of about one hundred thousand men was to cross the Lower Po to the east of the Mincio, and take up a

strong position between Mantua and Legnano, and by their presence hold the Austrian army within the Quadrilateral, while the remainder of the Italian army, by aid of the fleet, disembarked in the neighbourhood of Trieste, and pushed directly upon Vienna.

he adopted one which, as is believed, had been determined upon in case of the prosecution of the war of 1859, by a mixed council of French and Italian officers. The main attack was to be made against the Mincio and the Adige by the principal army, under the personal command of King Victor Emmanuel. Each corps of this army was reinforced by one division, so as to consist of four divisions. These corps were the first corps of General Durando, consisting of the divisions of Cerale, Pianelli, Sirtori, and Brignone; the second corps, under Cucchiari, consisting of the divisions of Angioletti, Longoni, Cosenz, and Nunziante; the third corps, under Della Rocca, consisting of the divisions of Cugia, Govone, Bixio, and the Crown Prince Humbert. If, as has been before observed, each division may be reckoned at twelve thousand men, with eighteen guns, the whole army, including the division of reserve cavalry, mustered about one hundred and forty-six thousand men, with two hundred and twenty-eight guns. The Italian staff from its information concluded that the Archduke Albrecht would await an attack behind the Adige, and determined to cross the Mincio, and occupy within the Quadrilateral the ground not held by the Austrians. After taking up this position, and so separating the fortresses from one another, the main army was to give a hand across the Adige to General Cialdini, who with his corps was to cross the Lower Po from the direction of Ferrara. General Garibaldi, with his volunteers, was to support the movement on the left by attacks on the passes which lead from Northern Lombardy into the Tyrol. On the day imme-

diately succeeding the declaration of war, the main body of the King's army was moved towards the Mincio. On the 22d June, the day before hostilities were to commence, the head-quarters of the first corps were at Cavriana, those of the third at Gazzoldo, those of the second at Castelluccio. On the night between the 22d and 23d, the King in person moved to Goito.

The passage of the Mincio was intended to take place at seven o'clock on the morning of the 23d, by the division of reserve cavalry, the whole of the third corps, and Cerale's, Sirtori's, and Brignone's divisions of the first corps,—altogether about eighty-seven thousand combatants, with one hundred and thirty-eight guns. To cover this advance, Pianelli's division of the first corps was to remain on the right bank of the Mincio, and watch the garrison at Peschiera. Cosenz's division of the second corps and one brigade of Nunziante's division were detached towards Mantua; the other brigade of Nunziante's division was posted on the right bank of the Po, to keep open the communications with Cialdini, and to observe Borgoforte.

Angioletti's and Longoni's divisions of the second corps were to remain near Castelluccio, and if they received no further orders to cross the Mincio on the 24th, and support the other two corps, which on that day were to be in position between the Mincio and the Adige.

On the morning of the 23d the passage of the Mincio by the Italians commenced. Cerale's division crossed at Monzambano, Sirtori's at Borghetto and Valeggio, and Brignone's at Molino di Volta, between Volta and Pozzolo. The reserve division of cavalry passed at

Goito, and was followed by the four divisions of the third corps. The two divisions of Bixio and of Prince Humbert were pushed to Belvedere and Roverbella, the divisions of Govone and Cugia encamped near Pozzolo and Massimbona. The three divisions of the first corps bivouacked near the points where they had crossed the stream on the left bank of the Mincio.

The reserve cavalry pushed patrols to Villafranca, which fell in with a few weak detachments of Austrian cavalry, but no other signs of the enemy were perceived.

A coronet of heights lies on the south side of the Lago di Garda, upon the left bank of the Mincio, which, on the south, between Valeggio and Somma Campagna, sinks into the plain of Villafranca, on the east, between Somma Campagna and Santa Giustina, drops towards Verona and the valley of the Adige. Since the very slight nature of the enemy's detachments discovered by the cavalry confirmed the Italian head-quarter staff in the idea that the Archduke Albrecht did not intend to hold the ground between the Mincio and the Adige, but to await an attack behind the latter stream, it was resolved to occupy these hills, and, on the 24th, to take up a position on the heights between Valeggio, Castelnovo, and Somma Campagna.

The orders issued for the Italian advance of the 24th June were, that the first corps should leave the division of Pianelli on the right bank of the Mincio, and should move the head-quarters of its main body to Castelnovo. There Cerale's division was to assume a position facing towards Peschiera, while those of Sirtori and Brignone at Santa Giustina and Sona should form front towards

Pastrengo and Verona. The line taken up by the first corps was to be prolonged through Somma Campagna and Villafranca by the third corps, and to Quaderni and Mozzecane by the division of the reserve cavalry. The divisions of Angioletti and Longoni were to cross the Mincio at Goito, and take post at Marmirolo and Reverbella, as reserves. Orders were also issued that a field bridge was to be thrown at Torre di Gioto, above Goito, and that the field-bridge at Molino, di Volta, as well as the permanent bridges at Monzambano, Borghetto, and Goito, should be covered by bridge-heads.

Confident of his information, and without scouring the country with his cavalry, General La Marmora ordered the advance of the 24th to be made only according to the ordinary habit of route marching. The troops did not breakfast before starting, proper rations were not served out to them, and the provision trains followed the columns. No preparation appears to have been made for combat. Scouts do not seem to have been sent out to observe the roads from the fortresses, and the soldiers of the infantry were loaded with their knapsacks under the broiling sun of Italian midsummer. This negligence and temerity met with its just reward.

The Archduke Albrecht had as field troops under his command, the fifth Austrian corps d'armée, led by Prince Liechtenstein, the seventh corps, under Field Marshal Maroicic di Madonna del Monte, the ninth corps, under General Hartung, and a division of reserve infantry formed out of fourth and border battalions under General Rodich. After a short time Rodich replaced Prince Liechtenstein in the command of the fifth corps,

and General Rupprecht received the command of the reserve division.

As soon as the Prussians entered Holstein, the Austrian commander in Italy concentrated his troops between Pastrengo and San Bonifacio,¹ so that they could be united with facility on either bank of the Adige, in case of necessity for action. After deductions for necessary detachments, the Archduke had three brigades of each corps, and a strong brigade of the reserve division ready for battle. His force was thus ten brigades, mustering about sixty thousand combatants, which the cavalry raised to sixty-two thousand five hundred. To these, two hundred and seventy guns were attached.

At the time that Italy declared war, the reserve division was posted at Pastrengo as the right Austrian wing, the seventh corps at San Bonifacio as the left wing, the fifth and ninth corps were concentrated at Verona. A few brigades were pushed forwards towards the line of the Lower Po, to watch Cialdini. A light cavalry brigade, pushed forward towards the Mincio to watch the army of King Victor Emanuel, received orders, in case the latter crossed that river, to fall back, without committing itself to any serious action, by way of Villafranca.

This brigade of cavalry withdrew on the 22d, as soon as the Italians seriously showed that they intended to cross the Mincio, to Villafranca. On the 23d, when the Italians crossed it, they withdrew further, with no more resistance than the exchange of a few cannon shots near

¹ A station on the railway between Verona and Vicenza, and about midway between those towns.

Dossobuono, and that evening took post under the forts of Verona.

On the afternoon of the 23d, a staff-officer, who had been sent to Somma Campagna, reported to the Archduke Albrecht that the heights near that place were not yet occupied by the Italians, but that heavy clouds of dust could be seen to the south moving towards the Adige.

Archduke Albrecht, who had before thought that the Italians, after crossing the Mincio, would move directly upon Isola della Scala to join Cialdini on the Lower Po, was confirmed in his idea by this report from Somma Campagna. He concluded that King Victor Emanuel was moving, by way of Isola, to Albaredo on the Adige, there to throw a bridge and cross that river. From Goito to Albaredo the distance is over thirty miles. The Archduke calculated that the Italians could not reach Albaredo before the evening of the 24th, and that, as they must then throw a bridge, they could only with difficulty commence the passage of the Adige on the morning of the 25th. The Archduke calculated that on the 23d he could occupy the heights by Sona and Somma Campagna, and could, on the morning of the 24th, attack with strong force the Italian flank near Villafranca, while his reserves could at the same time be at Castel d'Azzano.

Acting with this idea, on the afternoon of the 23rd, the Archduke removed one brigade of his reserve division to Sandra, whence it pushed detachments towards Castelnovo. The fifth corps, under General Rodich, was at the same time to move to Sona, and send its advanced guard to Zerbare in the direction of Custozza and Valeggio.

The ninth corps, which had to make a march of fifteen miles from San Bonifacio, could only reach Verona on the evening of the 23d, and was therefore ordered to be held as the reserve. The cavalry attached to the different corps d'armée was formed into an independent cavalry brigade, so that the Archduke now had two brigades of that arm. On the night between the 23d and 24th, the Austrian head-quarters were moved to San Massimo, and orders were issued that on the 24th, at early morning, the line between Sandra, Santa Giustina, Sona, and Somma Campagna should be occupied, and that then a wheel to the left should be made on Somma Campagna, as a pivot, which would bring the troops on a line from Castelnovo by San Giorgio and Zerbare to Somma Campagna. This movement was to be covered by the two cavalry brigades, which were to advance by Ganfardine and Dossobuono towards Custozza and Villafranca.

The dispositions on both sides thus rendered a collision between the two armies imminent, and brought on the

BATTLE OF CUSTOZZA.

In the night between the 23d and 24th, a heavy fall of rain took place, which laid the dust, and made the air cool on the following day.

At three o'clock in the morning of the 24th, the sixth Austrian corps moved on Somma Campagna, the fifth corps, leaving a detachment in Sona, moved on San Giorgio; the reserve division from Sandra, on Castelnovo. The advanced guards of all three corps were pushed further forward, and the cavalry brigades spread them-

selves in the plain, on the left of the ninth corps. These advanced guards fell in with those of the divisions of King Victor Emmanuel, which were moving in the opposite direction, first with those of the reserve cavalry division and that of Prince Humbert, which were moving from Villafranca on Dossobuono and Ganfardine, then on that of Bixio, which followed on the left of Prince Humbert, as well as on that of Cugia's division, which was moving on Staffalo, and which was supported by the divisions of Govone and Brignone. The above-named Italian divisions were engaged on the eastern bank of the Tione. On the western bank of that stream the advanced guard of Cerale's division fell in with the Austrian reserve division near Alzarea, and under the pressure of superior force was compelled to retire to Oliosi, where Cerale made a determined stand. The Archduke Albrecht reinforced his reserve division by Piret's brigade of the fifth corps, from the eastern side of the Tione, while Möring's and Bauer's brigade of the same corps advanced against San Rocco di Palazzuolo. The communication between his fifth and ninth corps was secured by the advanced guard of the seventh corps, which was marching from Sona by Zerbare. After a hot fight, in which great bravery was displayed by both sides, Oliosi caught fire, and Cerale was forced to retreat about one o'clock, to Monte Vento. Cerale himself was wounded, and General Villarey, the commander of one of his brigades, was killed. At Monte Vento, Sirtori's division, which had advanced from Valeggio to Santa Lucia, on the Tione, covered the right wing of Cerale's troops, yet without effect, for the Austrians stormed Monte Vento and drove

out Cerale, who was forced to retreat on Valeggio. He was not, however, pursued. General Pianelli, who had been left on the right bank of the Mincio, near Monzambano, hearing that Cerale was hard pressed at Oliosi, on his own responsibility led one brigade of his division across the river, and threatened the right flank of the Austrian advance against Monte Vento.

As soon as Monte Vento was evacuated by the Italians, Bauer's and Möring's brigades advanced against Sirtori, at Santa Lucia. The Italian general quitted his position here because he was not supported on his left, and retreated about three o'clock to Valeggio. The Austrian reserve division had in the meantime advanced against Salionze and Monzambano. By this hour the left wing of the Italian army had been completely driven from the field, but the battle still was maintained on the eastern bank of the Tione. In this part of the field the Austrian ninth corps had received orders to halt near Somma Campagna, when Cugia, about eight o'clock, advanced by way of Madonna della Croce. General Hartung occupied Berettara and Casa del Sole in force. He soon received orders to advance on Custozza, when he fell in with Cugia's division, which was supported on the right by that of Prince Humbert. The latter was exposed to frequent attacks of the Austrian cavalry, and was often obliged to throw its battalions into square, in one of which the Prince himself found shelter from the enemy's horsemen.

On Cugia's left Brignone was engaged. The latter division was led into action by General La Marmora himself. At Monte Godio it was attacked by the

Austrian brigade of Sardier, supported by two other brigades of the seventh Austrian corps. Shortly after midday, and after two commanders of his brigades, Gozzani and Prince Amadeus, had been wounded, Brignone was forced to retreat to Custozza. Govone's division was pushed forward in his place.

After Cerales had been driven from Monte Vento, and Sirtori had retired from Santa Lucia, the seventh Austrian corps, supported by the left brigade of the fifth corps, which had now nothing before it, pressed hard on Govone at Bagolino, and took this place from him. Cugia, now outflanked on his left, was forced to quit Madonna della Croce, and at five o'clock the retreat of the Italian army was general. Slowly the third corps retired beyond Custozza, with its left wing on Prabiano, its right on Villafranca. It was not till seven o'clock in the evening that the Austrians occupied the heights of Custozza. Bixio's division and the reserve cavalry covered the retreat across the plain, where some detachments of the second corps also came into action.

The two divisions of Angioletti and Longoni, of the second corps, were to have marched from Castelluccio early on the 24th, and crossing the Mincio at Goito, have moved on Villafranca, where they could easily have arrived by ten o'clock in the morning. They did not, however, march at daybreak, and when General La Marmora, who during the action, for some unexplained reason, instead of sending a staff-officer rode to Goito to send these troops forward, he found there, between three and four o'clock, only a weak advanced guard of those divisions. This was sent forward towards

Villafranca, and took a slight part in covering the retreat, but the main body of the second corps had not moved from Castelluccio.

The Italian retreat was made, without any orders from the commander-in-chief, by order of the commanders of divisions. Pianelli's division, after repelling a sally against it by the garrison of Peschiera, retired on Monzambano, Cerale's and Sirtori's on Valeggio, Brignone's on Molino di Volta. Of the third corps Govone and Cugia retired to Valeggio, Prince Humbert and Bixio to Goito. The first corps recrossed the river on the afternoon and evening of the 24th; the third corps and the cavalry in the night. The third corps rallied at Volta, the cavalry between Goito and Cerlango. The bridge of Valeggio was destroyed.

The army of King Victor Emanuel was withdrawn behind the Oglio. Cialdini, who, on the news of the battle of Custoza, did not cross the Lower Po, moved towards his left, and posted his troops near Mirandola and Modena, so as to be in close communication with the army of the King.

The Austrians lost nine hundred and sixty killed, three thousand six hundred and ninety wounded, and nearly one thousand prisoners, who were for the most part captured by Pianelli. The Italians lost seven hundred and twenty killed, three thousand one hundred and twelve wounded, and four thousand three hundred and fifteen missing.

A pause in the operations was necessary to allow the Italian army time to recover from the disaster of Custoza. On the 30th, detachments of the Austrian cavalry crossed

the Mincio, and pushed as far as the Chiese, but the Archduke Albrecht had no intention or design of invading Lombardy.

The volunteers under General Garibaldi amounted to about six thousand men. They were divided upon three lines. The main body was collected by the 20th June, in front of Rocca d'Ans, a small detachment was placed near Edolo, on the road which leads through the pass of the Monte Tonale into the Tyrol, another detachment near Bormio on the road which leads over the Stelvio.

On the 22nd June, Garibaldi's main body crossed the frontier near Storo, but found the population of the Tyrol entirely opposed to them, and staunchly loyal to the House of Hapsburg. On the 25th, a sharp combat took place at the frontier bridge of Cassarobach, in which the Italians were worsted. They retired towards Bogolino. Near this town they were attacked by an Austrian detachment on the 3rd July, and again suffered a reverse. In this engagement General Garibaldi was wounded.

The Austrians crossed the frontier by the Tonal and Stelvio roads with small detachments, and several skirmishes took place in these directions between the 23rd June and 3rd July.

As soon as after the battle of Königgrätz Venetia was offered by the Government of Vienna to the Emperor of the French, the fifth and ninth Austrian corps were withdrawn from Italy, and forwarded to the Danube. There then remained in Venetia, besides the garrisons of the fortress, only one Austrian corps, and in the Tyrol a weak detachment under General Kuhn.

The Italian army rested for a space after the battle of Custoza, but an advance was rendered necessary by the alliance with Prussia. The disaster of Custoza had caused both the country and the army to lose confidence in La Marmora. The command-in-chief was given to General Cialdini, who was ordered to cross the Lower Po, and push troops against the Tyrol and into Eastern Venetia.

On the evening of the 7th July, Cialdini, leaving a division to watch Borgoforte, and another near Ferrara, concentrated seven divisions near Carbonara and Felonica, and that evening threw some detachments of light troops across the Po at Massa. On the night of the 8th, three bridges of boats were thrown across the stream at Carbanarola, Sermide, and Felonica, and on the 9th, the army crossed at these points, covered from any attack by the marshes which in this direction lie between the Po and the Adige. After having passed the Po under cover of this natural obstacle, Cialdini made a flank march to his right, gained the high road which leads from Ferrara by Rovigo to Padua, and opened his communication with Ferrara by military bridges thrown across the river to replace the road and railway bridges which, on the night of the 9th, the Austrians blew up, as well as the works of Rovigo. On the 10th, Cialdini's head-quarters arrived at Rovigo, and on the 14th, after securing the passage of the Adige at Monselice, his advanced guard occupied Padua.

The division which Cialdini left under Nunziante, in front of Borgoforte, besieged that place. The batteries were armed by the 16th and opened on the 17th. On

the night of the 18th, the place was evacuated by the Austrian garrison, which retired to Mantua, and was occupied by the Italians, who captured there seventy guns, and magazines of all kinds.

As the progress of events in the north pointed to the conclusion of an armistice, the terms of which would compel, in all probability, the troops on both sides to remain in their actual positions, the Italians determined to gain as much ground as possible before diplomacy might cause their army to halt.

Cialdini, on the 19th, had with him about seventy thousand men, and an expeditionary force to reinforce him was being prepared, which would bring into the field about seventy thousand additional combatants. The Austrian troops in Italy which could take the field mustered little over thirty thousand men. That day, the Italian general commenced his advance from Padua. To Vicenza, which on the 15th had been entered by a weak advanced detachment, one division was sent ; the remainder of the army moved to the left bank of the Brenta. The right wing marched to Mestre, to cut Venice off on the land side, while the fleet, as was intended, should attack it from the sea. The centre was directed along the railway which leads by Treviso and Udine to the Isonzo ; the left wing was to act against the Tyrol. The reserve, which was being brought rapidly forward, was to hold the line of the Adige. Medici's division was to move on Primolano and through the Sugana valley upon Trent, while Garibaldi, with his volunteers, was to act from the west against the same place.

As Cialdini advanced, the Austrian field troops under General Maroicic withdrew from the Quadrilateral, and retired gradually behind the Piave, the Livenza, the Tagliamento, and finally, behind the Isonzo. On the 22d, they evacuated Udine, which, on the 24th, was occupied by the Italians, with two corps. No resistance was made by the Austrians until the Italian advanced guard, on the 25th, passed beyond Palmanovo, when a sharp skirmish took place with the Austrian rear-guard. As a truce had, however, been concluded on the 25th, it led to no results. In the meantime, Cialdini had pushed detachments by Schio towards Roveredo and by Belluno, as far as Avronzo, on his left, while on his right his troops were close up to Venice and Chioggia. A truce was agreed upon on the 22d, which was extended from week to week, until on the 12th August an armistice was concluded. The line of the Indrio was fixed as the line of demarcation between the troops on either side.

As soon as the armistice between Prussia and Austria had been agreed to upon the 22d July, the Austrian troops which had been transferred from Venetia to the Danube were sent back to the Isonzo, but on account of the subsequent peace were not called upon to act.

In the meantime operations had been carried on against the Southern Tyrol. On the 20th July, Medici received orders at Vigo d'Arzere to push through the Val Sugana upon Trent. He reached Bassano on the 21st, with about twelve thousand men, and eighteen guns: the same evening he pushed his advanced guard to Carpano. Hence he detached a regiment to his right

and one to his left to turn the works which the Austrians had thrown up at Primolano, to cover the junction of the roads to Feltre and Trent. On the 22d, with his main body he marched against these works, which the Austrians evacuated as soon as they heard of their being threatened to be turned. On the 23d, Medici found the bridge over the Strigno barricaded, but not defended, and, after a slight opposition, that evening entered Borgo. On the 24th he pushed his advanced guards to Pergine and Vigolo. That day General Kuhn telegraphed to Verona for reinforcements, and on the 25th received from that place about eight thousand men. With them and the four thousand he had near Trent, he determined to fall upon Medici, and push him back.

On the 25th a slight combat took place between some of Kuhn's outposts and the Italian advanced guard near Sorda; but nothing further occurred on account of the receipt of the intelligence of the conclusion of the armistice. Garibaldi had made some movements from the west against the Tyrol, but without great success. On the 14th, after crossing the frontier, he fixed his head-quarters at Storo. On the 19th he captured the small fort of Ampola. The Austrians made several attacks against the Italian volunteers, who tried to secure the roads leading through the mountains. This irregular warfare led to no great successes on either side. Though Garibaldi attempted to gain as much ground as possible, he did not occupy much at the time of the conclusion of the armistice. By that date he held the valley of the Chiese for a length of only

ten miles from the Italian frontier, and in the Val di Conzei, one of his regiments was advanced two miles to the north of Riva. On the pass over Monte Tonale the Italians were repulsed by an Austrian detachment, and never effected a lodgement beyond the frontier.

CHAPTER II.

NAVAL OPERATIONS.

OF the Italian fleet great things were expected. The long coast line of Italy, and the mercantile habits of the natives of many of her sea-board towns, had for a long succession of years been calculated to foster seamen, and to lay the foundation for an efficient navy. The result of the war caused bitter disappointment to the Italian people.

The Italian fleet was assembled at Tarento in the middle of May, and the command of it given to Admiral Persano. He divided it into three squadrons. The first squadron, under the immediate command of Persano himself, consisted of the ironclad vessels *Re d'Italia*, *Re di Portogallo*, *San Martino*, *Ancona*, *Maria Pia*, *Castelfidardo*, and *Affondatore* ; a flotilla of five gunboats was attached to this active squadron. The second, or auxiliary squadron, was formed of unplated vessels. In it were the frigates *Maria Adelaide*, *Duca di Genova*, *Vittorio Emanuele*, *Gaeta*, *Principe Umberto*, *Carlo Alberto*, *Garibaldi*, and the corvettes *Clotilda*, *Etna*, *San Giovanni*, and *Guiscardo*. The third squadron consisted of three battering vessels and two gunboats ; and the transport squadron included fifteen vessels,

which could convey in all about twenty thousand men across the Adriatic.

On the declaration of war the fleets sailed from Tarento to Ancona, and cast anchor there on the 25th of June.

Here Persano heard of the disaster of Custozza, and resolved to wait until the new plan for the operations of the land army had been decided upon, leaving one vessel, the *Esploratore*, to cruise outside of the harbour.

On the 27th the Austrian fleet, under the command of Admiral Tegethoff, appeared in front of Ancona. Some shots were exchanged between the *Esploratore* and the leading Austrian vessel, the *Elisabeth*, but no further engagement took place, for, before Persano could weigh anchor and come out to fight, the Austrian fleet retired.

For a length of time Persano remained inactive in Ancona. When Cialdini advanced into Venetia, he was, however, ordered to act, and he determined to attack Lissa.

The island of Lissa lies in the Adriatic, some thirty miles south of Spalato. Between it and the main land lie the islands of Lesina, Brazza, and Solta. Between Lissa and Lesina there is a strait of a breadth of about fifteen miles. In Lissa there are two ports those of San Giorgio and of Comisa.

On the 16th July Persano weighed from Ancona. The fleet which accompanied him consisted of twenty-eight vessels, of which eleven were iron-plated, four were screw frigates, two paddle-wheel corvettes, one a screw corvette, four despatch boats, four gunboats,

one hospital ship, and one store ship. The frigate *Garibaldi* remained at Ancona on account of necessary repairs. Messages were sent to all vessels at Tarento or Brindisi to sail towards Lissa, especially to the ram, the *Affondatore*.

On the evening of the 17th, Persano issued orders that Admiral Vacca, with three ironclad vessels and a corvette, should bombard Comisa; that the main force, consisting of eight ironclads, a corvette, and despatch boat, should assail San Giorgio; and that Admiral Albini, with four wooden frigates and a despatch boat, should effect a landing at the port of Manego on the south side of the island, in rear of the works of San Giorgio. Two vessels were to cruise on the north and east of Lissa during these operations, in order to give timely warning of the approach of the Austrian fleet.

On the morning of the 18th, Vacca began to bombard the works of Comisa. He soon found, however, that his guns could not attain sufficient elevation to do much damage. He gave up the attack, and sailed for Port Manego. Albini at Manego, for similar reasons as Vacca, could not effect a landing, and Vacca sailed to join Persano. The latter had begun to bombard San Giorgio at eleven in the morning; by three o'clock, when Vacca arrived, he had blown up two magazines, and silenced several of the Austrian batteries. He could not, however, succeed in sending his ships into the harbour, and the prosecution of the attack was postponed till the next day.

On the evening of the 18th the whole of Persano's fleet was assembled in front of San Giorgio, and in

the night it was joined by the ram *Affondatore* and three wooden vessels. That evening Persano heard that the Austrian fleet was leaving Fasana to attack him. He calculated, however, that it could not approach Lissa before nightfall on the 19th, and determined to make a second attack upon the island on that day, and issued in consequence the following orders :—

Albini, with the squadron of wooden ships and the gun-boats, was to attempt a landing at Port Carobert, south of San Giorgio. The ironclads, *Terribile* and *Varesco*, were to bombard Comisa, in order to prevent the garrison there from reinforcing that of San Giorgio. The floating battery, the *Formidabile*, was to enter the harbour of San Giorgio, and silence the batteries inside. Vacca, with the *Principe de Carignano*, *Castelfidardo*, and *Ancona*, was to support the *Formidabile* ; the *Re di Portogallo* and the *Palestro* were to bombard the outside batteries ; while Persano himself, with the *Re d'Italia*, the *San Martino*, and the *Maria Pia*, were to prevent opposition being offered to Albini's landing.

The attack was postponed from hour to hour in case Tegethoff might arrive ; but when, in the afternoon, the cruisers signalled that no smoke was to be made out on the horizon, the attack began.

The *Formidabile* entered the harbour, and, taking post four hundred yards distant from the Austrian batteries at the extreme end, opened fire. A battery on the northern side told severely upon her, and Persano ordered the *Affondatore* to open upon this battery through the mouth of the harbour. This was done, but without much effect.

Vacca formed his three ironclads in single line, steamed into the harbour, and opened on the batteries inside; but he could not efficiently support the *Formidabile*, both because she herself covered the Austrian batteries, and on account of the difficulty of manœuvring in the narrow space within the harbour, which is only about one hundred fathoms wide.

He was soon forced to quit the harbour, and was followed by the *Formidabile*, which had lost sixty men, and suffered considerably. The latter was sent the same evening to Ancona for repairs.

The landing was equally unsuccessful. The wind blew fresh from the south-east, and the boats could with difficulty approach the beach on account of the surf.

On the night of the 19th, the ironclads were assembled in order of battle outside of the harbour of San Giorgio. Early the next morning the Piemonte joined Persano, who had now in all thirty-four vessels under his command. On the 20th at daybreak the weather was stormy; yet Persano ordered another attempt to land. The ironclads, *Terribile* and *Varese*, bombarded Comisa. Albini and Sandri, with the wooden vessels and the gunboats, supported the landing at Port Carobert. The *Re di Portagallo* and the *Castelfidardo* were engaged in some repairs to their machinery; the ironclads remained under steam in front of San Giorgio, awaiting orders.

The surf ran so high that the landing could not be effected, and it was about to be abandoned, when one of the cruisers bore hastily down through the rainy

mist, and signalled that the enemy was approaching from the north. Tegethoff with the Austrian fleet was at hand, to raise the attack upon the island.

BATTLE OF LISSA.

On the 17th July, Admiral Tegethoff at Fasana heard by telegram of the Italian fleet being near Lissa. He concluded that its appearance there was but a demonstration to draw him away from the coast of Istria. On the 19th, however, fresh telegrams assured him that the attack on the island was serious. He determined to proceed there. His fleet was in three divisions. The first division, consisting of the ironclads Archduke Ferdinand Max, Hapsburg, Kaiser Max, Don Juan d'Austria, Prince Eugene, Salamander, and Drache, was under the immediate command of Tegethoff. The second division, consisting of the large wooden vessels Kaiser Novara, Prince Schwarzenberg, Count Radetzky, Adria, Danube, and Archduke Frederick, was led by Commodore Petz. The third division consisted of the smaller wooden vessels. Hum, Dalmat, Reka, Seahound, Streiter, Velebich, and Wall. Each division of the fleet consisted thus of seven vessels. To it four despatch boats were attached, the Kaiserin Elisabeth, Andreas Hofer, Stadini, and Greif. Tegethoff had with him thus twenty-five vessels, mounting about five hundred guns.

The Austrian admiral left the roads of Fasana about mid-day on the 19th of June. On the morning of the 20th his despatch boats reported a vessel of the enemy in sight. The wind was blowing strong from the north-west. At first Tegethoff steered a course from the

north-west to south-east, parallel to the Istrian coast, but off Zirona and Solta he altered his course to one directly from north to south.

Persano, as soon as he heard of the Austrian approach, ordered his vessels to form line of battle. The *Terribile* and *Varese* were in front of *Comisa*, so that he had only ten ironclads. The Italian wooden vessels never came into action at all, except by firing some long-range shots.

About nine o'clock the Italian ironclads, formed in single line, were steering almost from west-south-west to east-north-east in three divisions. The first division consisted of the *Maria Pia*, the *Varese*, which arrived about this time, and the *Re di Portogallo*; it was under the command of Ribotty. The second group consisted of the *San Martino*, *Palestro*, *Affondatore*, and Persano's flag-ship, the *Re d'Italia*. The third group, under the command of Vacca, consisted of the *Ancona*, the *Castelfidardo*, and *Principe di Carignano*. The *Maria Pia* was at the head of the column; the *Carignano* was the sternmost vessel. When the Austrian fleet came nearer, Persano signalled each ship to go about, so that the *Carignano* led, and the column took a course from west to east.

Persano, at the same time, moved in person from the *Re d'Italia* to the *Affondatore*, which he ordered to take up a position on the flank of the column furthest from the Austrian attack. When Admiral Tegethoff could clearly make out the Italian fleet, it was steering from west to east. He bore down upon it in the following order:—His twenty-one vessels were arranged in three divisions

of seven ships each. The first division consisted of ironclads; the two other divisions of wooden vessels. The line of ironclads led, with the admiral's flag-ship slightly in advance, from which the other vessels, falling a little astern, formed a wedge-like order. The seven heaviest wooden vessels followed the ironclads, and were themselves followed by the lighter vessels in a similar formation.

Tegethoff bore down upon the gap between Vacca's three vessels and the central Italian group, and drove his own flagship, the *Ferdinand Max*, straight upon the *Re d'Italia*, which he rammed several times, and sank. Only a small portion of the crew were saved. The *Palestro* attempted to aid the *Re d'Italia*, but Tegethoff turning upon her, ruined her steering apparatus. At the same time she was attacked by other ironclads, and quickly caught fire. She fell away before the wind; the fire could not be got under, and with all her ship's company, except sixteen men, she blew up. Thus of the Italian central division two vessels were lost, while the *Affondatore* remained inactive, apart from the battle. The third vessel of this division, attacked by the seven Austrian ironclads, as well as by three wooden vessels, was severely handled, and forced to retreat.

The Italian division under Vacca had, with a northeasterly course, sailed along the flank of the Austrian ironclads as they advanced, and exchanged some broadsides with them. When his leading ship, the *Carignano*, was clear of Tegethoff's ironclads, Vacca ordered a change of direction, and brought his three vessels in line between the second and third Austrian divisions.

His fire told severely on both, especially on the *Kaiser*, the flagship of the Austrian second division.

The Italian division under Ribotty, when it saw the central division engaged, altering its course, moved against the Austrian wooden ships, and thus brought them between two fires. Ribotty fiercely attacked the *Kaiser*, commanded by Commodore Petz. Petz, using his wooden vessel as a ram, ran with full steam against the *Re di Portogallo*, and lay then alongside of her. At the same time he was attacked by the *Maria Pia*, and his vessel suffered fearfully.

Tegethoff, by this time, had disposed of the Italian central division, and he brought his ironclads back to aid his wooden vessels. Under their protection the *Kaiser* got away, and was taken to Lissa. A close and fierce battle began now between the whole of the Austrian vessels and the six Italian ironclads, during which the Italian wooden squadron and the *Affondatore* looked on from the distance. The smoke was so thick that either side could with difficulty tell their own vessels; and soon the necessity of hauling off was felt.

Tegethoff signalled to his fleet to form in three columns, with a north-easterly course; the ironclads formed the northernmost line, nearest to the Italians. By this manœuvre the Austrian fleet was brought in front of the strait between Lissa and Lesina. Vacca, under the impression that Persano had gone down in the *Re d'Italia*, ordered the Italian ironclads to assemble, and with them in a single line steered slowly towards the west, waiting for the *Palestro*. She soon blew up. It was now about two o'clock, and the action had lasted

about four hours. At this time Persano, with the *Affondatore*, joined Vacca's squadron, placed her at the head of the line, and ordered the other vessels to follow her movements. These movements appear to have consisted in no more than a steady pursuit of a westerly course to the harbour of Ancona. By the battle of Lissa the Italians lost two ironclads, the *Re d'Italia* and the *Palestro*. The *Affondatore* sunk at Ancona, after reaching harbour. For three days the Italian people were led to believe that a victory had been won at Lissa. The mortification of the defeat which then became known was thereby increased. Persano was summoned before the Senate, and was deprived of all command in the Italian navy.

One remark appears patent, even to those who are quite unskilled in naval matters, that in this sea-fight Tegethoff led his fleet, Persano only directed his. Another, that the Italian admiral, with superior forces at his command, allowed an inferior force of his own vessels to be attacked and defeated at the decisive moment by a smaller force of his adversary.

On the 21st, the Austrian admiral returned, without a missing vessel, to the roads of Fasana.

CHAPTER III.

PEACE BETWEEN ITALY AND AUSTRIA.

THE armistice concluded between Austria and Italy was to last from mid-day on the 13th August to the 9th September.

In the meantime, negotiations for peace were opened at Vienna ; and on the 3d October a definite treaty was signed. By it Austria recognised the kingdom of Italy, and the cession to it of Venetia by the Emperor of the French. The ratifications were exchanged as soon as possible. The Austrian Commissioner-General, Möring, formally gave over Venetia to the French Commissioner, General Lebœuf, when a plebiscite took place. The annexation to the kingdom of Victor Emmanuel was almost unanimously voted by the people of Venetia, and Italy became one great country, united under the sceptre of the House of Piedmont, and free of any foreign dominion, from the Alps to the Adriatic.

APPENDIX I.

PRELIMINARIES OF PEACE AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE TWO GREAT BELLIGERENT POWERS.

" THEIR Majesties the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia, after declaring that they are animated by a desire to restore to their peoples the blessings of peace, appoint as their Plenipotentiaries—

" His Apostolic Majesty—Count Karolyi and Baron de Brenner; and the King of Prussia—Count Bismarck, who have agreed upon the following points:—

" The integrity of the Austrian monarchy, with the exception of Venetia, shall be maintained.

" The King of Prussia shall withdraw his troops from the Austrian territory as soon as a peace shall have been signed.

" The Emperor of Austria recognises the dissolution of the Germanic Confederation as it heretofore existed, and accepts the new organization of Germany without the participation of Austria; he undertakes to recognise the closer Federal relations (*die engern Bundesbände*) which the King of Prussia shall establish to the north of the line of the Maine; he also accepts the formation by the States of the South of a separate Confederation, and that the national connexion with the North shall be reserved for future arrangement between the two Confederations.

" His Apostolic Majesty transfers to the King of Prussia all the rights which he had acquired by the Treaty of Vienna of the 30th of October over the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, with the reservation that the population of Northern Schleswig,

if they should express such a desire by a free vote, should be re-united to Denmark.

“ The war indemnity is fixed at forty million thalers. From this sum fifteen millions shall be deducted as the equivalent of the amount which the Emperor of Austria, by virtue of the Treaty of 1864, would still be entitled to claim from the Elbe Duchies, and five millions as the equivalent of the provisioning of the Prussian troops which still continue to occupy the Austrian provinces until the conclusion of peace. There will, therefore, remain a sum of twenty million thalers to be paid in specie.

“ The King of Prussia, at the request of Austria, consents to allow the kingdom of Saxony to retain its present territorial limits, but he reserves to himself the power of settling, by a special treaty to be concluded with the King of Saxony, the question of the war indemnities as well as the future position which Saxony shall hold in the Northern Confederation.

“ The Emperor of Austria will recognise the new territorial arrangements effected by the King of Prussia in the north of Germany, and also any territorial changes which he may complete.

“ The King of Prussia engages to obtain the adhesion of his ally of Italy to the preliminaries of peace and to the armistice as soon as the Emperor of the French shall have declared that the kingdom of Venetia is at the disposition of the King of Italy.

“ The Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia, after the exchange of ratifications of the present preliminaries has been completed, shall appoint Plenipotentiaries, who shall meet at a place to be hereafter selected, in order to conclude a peace upon the bases of the present preliminary convention, and to negotiate upon questions of detail.

“ For these purposes, after having agreed upon the present preliminaries, the high contracting parties shall conclude this armistice between the Austrian and Saxon military forces on the one part, and the Prussian military forces on the other part.

“ The conditions of this armistice shall be settled immediately.

“ The armistice shall commence from August 2d, and the present suspension of arms shall be prolonged until that date.

“ There shall also be concluded at the present stage of the negotiations an armistice with Bavaria, and General Baron de Manteuffel shall be required to conclude armistices, to commence also from the date of August 2d, upon the bases of the military *status quo*, with Baden, Würtemberg, and Hesse-Darmstadt as soon as these States shall require.”

APPENDIX II.

MUCH was said and written at the time of the armistice on the state of the Prussian hospitals. While the head-quarters of the fine army lay at Prague, the utter stagnation of affairs and a favourable opportunity induced the author to pay a visit to the line by which the Crown Prince advanced with the Second Army from Silesia to the battle of Königgrätz. The train glided without stopping past the station of Königgrätz, which is a short distance from the advanced works of the fortress, and where a guard of the Austrian garrison were standing beside their piled arms, past Josephstadt, close under the guns of the bastions, and between the main body of the place and an out-work on which an Austrian sentry was pacing along the rampart, and Austrian soldiers were lying listlessly beside the big guns looming out of the embrasures. The line of railway was itself, by the conditions of the armistice, available for Prussian transport, but no Prussian was allowed to get out of the train either at Josephstadt or Königgrätz, nor did the trains stop at either place unless some one unconnected with the Prussian army wished to be put down or to get in, in which case a momentary halt was made at the station. On arriving at Königgrätz, we found a large number of hospital tents filled with men who had been wounded at Nachod, Skalitz, or the great battle. Prussian and Austrian soldiers lay side by side, all under the care of Prussian surgeons, but tended and nursed by a large number of Prussian ladies, and by many sisters of charity. Many of the Austrian soldiers were Poles, many Italians who spoke no German, but relied upon the Prussian ladies to act as interpreters between

them and the surgeons. Many of the men were on the road to rapid recovery, and were able to talk cheerfully and smoke, while with a piece of green bough they brushed away the flies which in this warm climate clustered thickly in the hospital tent, and tried to fix themselves upon the healing wounds. In one tent lay two or three who were considered hopeless cases; one poor fellow, an Austrian artilleryman, who had lost both legs, lay upon his mattress, moving his head feebly with a restless motion. "He must die," whispered the surgeon; "he cannot get over it." But going forward he stooped over the much-suffering man, patted his forehead, and spoke some words of consolation to him. As the doctor turned to leave the bedside, the man, who seemed to derive some hope from his presence, began to moan feebly, but a lady who was sitting near him came over to him, smoothed his pillow, and by a few kind words quieted him and induced him to try to go to sleep. The sufferer, with a child's obedience, closed his eyes, while his nurse sat down by his bed-head, ready to frighten away any fly that might threaten to disturb the fitful slumbers of the patient.

In another tent were a number of convalescents, with bright eyes, very different from those which, dull and hazy, betokened more dangerous cases. Here Baroness Seydlitz was serving out plentiful portions of cigars and tobacco, which were eagerly accepted by the men who were still unable to leave their beds, and whose thinned white hands told how much pain and illness can be caused even by the tiny bullets of the needle-gun. This noble lady had two sons in the Prussian army, both of whom had served during the campaign. At the beginning of the war she was made superintendent of one of the many companies of Prussian ladies who formed themselves into charitable bands for nursing the wounded, and was now with her division of benefactresses stationed in the hospital tents of Königinhof. Fortunately, her sons had passed unscathed through the actions; but if every wounded soldier who came under her care had been her own child she could not have shown more solicitude for him than she did. The Prussian wounded had made us acquainted with their love and estimation

for her before we found her in the hospital tent, and every Slave, Pole, or Italian-Austrian, when asked who had given him any little luxury which we saw by his bed-head, knew enough German to answer, "*Die gute Frau von Seydlitz.*"

General Von Löwenfeld, who was passing through Königinhof on his way to review the battle-field of Nachod, where he with six battalions repulsed the fierce attacks of the Austrians until his supports arrived, was visiting the hospitals, and with a wonderful power, not only of language but dialect, was talking kindly to every patient. Many of the Austrians who were lying in the shaded tents of Königinhof had fallen under his own guns or the deadly fire of his own infantry at Nachod or Skalitz, but they bore no ill-will to the Prussian general. The Prussian Krankenträgers, Prussian surgeons, and Prussian ladies had removed any animosity which they might at first not unnaturally have felt to not only an enemy but a conqueror. All were asked how long they had lain on the field of battle; some four hours, some ten, some said thirty-six; one now merry Austrian boy, about eighteen years old, told us that he had been wounded in the Maslowed Wood during the battle of Königgrätz, and had lain there lost and hidden in the trees, and suffering fearfully from thirst and hunger, until found at the end of three days by some Prussian soldiers. An amputated foot showed that he had been badly wounded, but it is probable that suffering exaggerated to his mind the length of time he lay upon the ground, for the woods were searched by the Prussian Krankenträgers the day after the battle, though it is quite possible that in such thick foliage a wounded man may have lain long undetected, and perhaps been missed altogether. No one who did not see the country in which the battles of the war were fought would realize the enormous exertions made by the Prussian Krankenträgers to bring in wounded men. It must be remembered that every piece of rising ground was covered with thick wood or high standing corn; that down by the water-courses the long grass and the bulrushes rose tall in all their summer luxuriance. The wounded invariably, if possible, crawled under cover after Königgrätz, and sought by the brooks

for water to quench their thirst, or in the trees and crops for shelter; the Krankenträger had to beat carefully over every yard of ground which lies between Horonowitz and Nechanitz, between the Bistritz and the Elbe—a space of nearly forty-five square miles, over which they had to search for and carry to the ambulances many thousands of wounded men, Austrians and Prussians alike; and there are but 1,900 of these men with the whole Prussian armies.

The usual answer to the question, "Who first relieved you after the battle?" was that a Prussian soldier had given the speaker something to drink out of his water-bottle directly after the action had ceased, and that, after some time, two Prussian soldiers with a stretcher had lifted him up and carried him to the divisional hospital. A drive down the valley of the Elbe towards the mountains brought us to the Castle of Nachod, which lies at the entrance of the Nachod Pass, and about half a mile nearer to the main ridge than the hill upon which the action was fought. From every large country house waved the white flag, with its red cross, which showed that the building was being used as a hospital, and that under its roof wounded men were being coaxed slowly to recovery. The Castle of Nachod, itself standing on a high spur of the mountain chain, and overlooking most beautiful scenery, was occupied by 800 wounded, under the voluntary superintendence of the Prince of Salm-Horstmar, who had left his beautiful property of Rheingraf to work for charity in the hospitals of wounded soldiers. Long lines of beds stretched on both sides of the oak banqueting halls and the tapestried chambers of the castle—beds occupied by suffering but patient men; *Prussian ladies in black dresses* were gliding about, noiselessly carrying medicines or medical comforts to their grateful patients; Sisters of Mercy were sitting by the bedsides reading to the listening occupant, or propping up a feverish head on a snowy white pillow; while in the corridors outside noble ladies, both in the dresses of the Prussian lady volunteers and in those of Sisters of Mercy, were preparing food for the sick, or tearing up linen and sorting cotton wool to assist the surgeons. Most of the patients were doing

wonderfully well. The fine mountain air and the tender care of the nurses had a cheering effect upon them, which led them on to recovery.

Many officers were in separate rooms, most of them Austrians, brave men who, undaunted even by pain, expressed their opinion that their defeat was due to the needle-gun alone, and showed no want of desire to fight the war over again with equal arms. All, fortunately, so nearly well that a few weeks more restored them to their regiments.

There were still tenants of the Castle hospital at Nachod and of the tents of Königinhof long after peace had been signed, and after the Prussian armies had marched out of Bohemia; but it was quite wonderful how many of the men who were wounded at Nachod and Skalitz had already been dismissed from hospital. After the action of Nachod, 3,000 wounded were brought into the castle and town of Nachod alone, besides many who were withdrawn by the retreating Austrians to Skalitz and Königinhof, and afterwards fell into the hands of the Prussians. Of the 3,000 brought to Nachod, 800 still remained; but the rest had been sent away as convalescent, for but few had died, defeating the cares of their nurses. The soldiers still in hospital could not find words to express their gratitude to the ladies, both Catholic and Protestant, who had been their constant attendants, night and day, since they were lifted from the stretchers of the Krankenträger into their beds in the hospitals. Many of the recoveries must also be attributed to their care, for they, as all women by a bed of sickness, had a power to sooth suffering men which no surgeons or professional hospital attendants ever seemed to attain to.

END OF VOL II.

